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Proposal for ASEAN Arms Registry Rejected

BK1603051894 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 12 Mar 94 p 5

[Text] Security and defense officials of countries on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have shelved a Philippine proposal to monitor conventional arms buildup and military expenditures in the region. They opted to determine first how a United Nations-sponsored arms register would fare out.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino, who attended the recent special ASEAN senior officials meeting in Bangkok, reported that ASEAN member-states have taken a cautious stand on the Philippine proposal since it was wider in scope than the existing UN arms monitoring mechanisms.

"More or less we felt that the UN arms register should be allowed to see how it works first," Severino said.

The UN arms register is limited to monitoring exports and imports of major weapons system such as missiles, tanks, and combat aircraft. The Philippine proposal includes the exchange of information among ASEAN member-states on the indigenous production of conventional arms systems and military expenditures.

Pacific Economic Cooperation Council Meeting Tenth Session Opens in Malaysia

BK2303151594 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Mar 94 p 17

[By Ismail Kassim]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed yesterday declared that he would do everything possible to preserve the unity of the six-member ASEAN grouping.

He said that ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, was central to the future of the region.

"Indeed, I confess, without any sense of guilt, that I will fight every impulse, contain every force, and confront any danger that will damage or destroy the ASEAN family," he said.

"For this, I make no apology. I express no reservation."

His unequivocal endorsement of ASEAN came in his opening address to the 10th Pacific Economic Co-operation Council (PECC) meeting in which he tried to place the grouping in the context of other regional associations.

Diplomats here said that his remarks underlined Malaysia's concern that the future development of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum (APEC) might drive a wedge through ASEAN.

Of all ASEAN members, Malaysia has the greatest reservation over APEC, arguing strongly that it should not be institutionalised.

In his speech, Dr. Mahathir urged the ASEAN community to open itself further so that its members could all become stronger, more competitive, and prosperous.

At a press conference later, he expressed optimism that the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) could become a reality sooner than the 15-year deadline set at its first summit in Singapore.

"I am confident that the AFTA will not only lower the internal barriers but also the barriers to outside economies," he said.

Dr. Mahathir also called for the establishment of an egalitarian Pacific community in his keynote address.

"We cannot accept a Pax Sinica; we cannot accept a Pax Nipponica; we cannot accept a Pax Americana," he said.

"Instead, we believe in the establishment of a Pax Pacifica, a pax without an imperium, without a protector, and without an overlord."

But he also said that the Pacific community should be committed to open regionalism, adding that the best option was global free trade.

"Can we not all agree that global free trade, like democracy—with all its inherent imperfections—is by far the best option, ensuring the greatest good for the greatest number?" he asked.

"Given that trade blocs are not going to go away and may even proliferate, it surely requires statesmanship of the highest calibre to ensure they will be as open as possible to non-members and that they will contribute positively to global liberalism rather than global protectionism," he added.

Mahathir on U.S. Military Presence

BK2303140594 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Mar 94 p 17

[By Ismail Kassim]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed yesterday said that there was no need for special security or economic arrangements to check the dominance of big powers in the region.

The prime minister also said that he did not see a need to maintain the military presence of the United States as a protector in the region, describing it as "a sheer waste of money". "I cannot speak for specific countries, but for the whole region I do not think we need the U.S. fleet patrolling the seas in this area. So much money is wasted," he told reporters after opening the 10th meeting of the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council (PECC).

"We do not believe in security agreements or security set-ups like the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation ..."

Responding to questions about the possibility of Japan and China dominating the region, Dr. Mahathir said that they would "cancel each other, as there is mutual distrust".

"This is good, as one will balance the other. So there is no necessity for any special security arrangement or any arrangement to prevent the dominance of any economy over the rest of the region," he added.

Dr. Mahathir said that countries in East Asia could get along with each other and had no fear of Japan or China.

On the possibility that the two giants might be competing with each other by seeking allies, he said that the ASEAN countries rejected any such moves.

The regional grouping was also against getting involved in any such alliances.

Referring to the United States, he said that it could provide the "check and balance", without a need for its Seventh Fleet to patrol this area.

"The United States should stay in the United States, as much as Japan in Japan and China in China. We know they are strong ... We do not want to disturb them and they should not want to disturb each other."

He added that the era of conquest and colonisation was over and countries should and would not go around conquering others any more.

Asked whether he was suggesting a total withdrawal of the U.S. military presence from the region, Dr. Mahathir said: "I would not be too upset if they withdraw. But some of the neighbours who feel unhappy about their neighbours may feel insecure and I cannot determine for them."

Indonesian Minister on APEC Summit

BK2303143094 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0530 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 23 (ANTARA)—Indonesia, which will host the informal summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum next November, has identified four areas of cooperation which may be intensively discussed during the conference, a senior minister has said.

Coordinating Minister of Industry and Trade Hartarto listed the potential areas of cooperation in a speech here Tuesday in a dinner party given to some 600 participants from 20 countries attending the three-day 10th meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC).

The PECC meeting began Tuesday.

The minister said that the four areas relate to the development of human resources, infrastructures, small and medium scale industries and the private sector's participation in economic cooperation.

Cooperation in the four areas, he said, will be concentrated on investment and regional trade, which will be implemented in conformity with the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).

"We believe that assistance and support from the governments of member countries will make APEC activities this year useful," he added.

According to Hartarto, the decisions to be reached in the forthcoming summit will have a profound global impact as APEC will bring together the East and West countries as well as the North and South nations.

APEC, set up in 1989, now groups 17 countries comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, People's China, South Korea, Japan, Mexico and Papua New Guinea.

The minister further said that the North-South dialogue and economic cooperation will take on a global scale once the dialogue and economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific become successful.

On the first day of the PECC meeting, Hartarto talked about APEC problems, free trade areas and open regionalism.

He said that regional trade alliances is now a permanent part of a global trade system and that open regionalism is currently based on regional expansion and global trade.

Although designed to support local industries, regional trade alliance is by no means meant to discriminate against corporations from outside the region concerned, he added.

Meeting Adopts Concord, Concludes

BK2403075694 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] The 10th international general meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, PECC, has adopted the Kuala Lumpur Concord on open regionalism at their last day's meeting in Kuala Lumpur today. PECC, which is the largest and most inclusive Pacific grouping invloving 21 economies from the North, Southeast, and West Pacific, are also pledged to fulfill their commitments to meet the challenges of open regionalism.

The chairman of the meeting, Datuk Dr. Nordin Sopiee, announced that five points were underlined by the council in order to meet the challenges. This includes to review its priority in allocating resources to champion open regionalism in the pursuit of regional economic cooperation. He said the council will also establish processes sand instruments for studying and monitoring the development of protection and liberalization in the Pacific and elsewhere. It will join hands with institutions and movements which are similarly committed to open regionalism and global liberalization as well as to make measures to ensure greater involvement of the business sector.

Japan

ROK President, Delegation Pay Three-Day Visit

President Kim, Entourage Welcomed

OW2403084594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0808 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam began a three-day state visit to Japan on Thursday [24 March] receiving red-carpet treatment and cheering students at a welcome ceremony. Kim and the South Korean first lady, who wore a pastel-yellow chima chogori traditional Korean dress, shook hands and exchanged courtesies with the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in the hall of the Akasaka Palace.

Students waiting in front of the Akasaka Palace waved small South Korean and Japanese flags when Kim and his wife Son Myong-sun emerged together with the imperial couple. Kim, who was given a full-fledged military welcome attended by most cabinet members and heads of both houses of the Diet, looked tense during the ceremony despite an occasional smile.

After being saluted by honor guards and listening to the South Korean and Japanese anthems, Kim and his wife were greeted by Crown Prince Naruhito, Crown Princess Masako, Princess Nori and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Following Kim's pacing off the honor guards under a partly cloudy sky and a short encounter with attending politicians, the presidential couple left for an audience with the emperor and empress at the Imperial Palace.

Ways to avert an open confrontation over North Korea's alleged nuclear program are the main focus of Kim's talks in Japan and with Chinese leaders later.

He told Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who welcomed the president at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, that "Russia's cooperation is necessary" to solve the dispute stemming from North Korea's refusal of full inspections of its nuclear facilities.

In response Hata, who returned from talks in Russia on Monday, told Kim that Moscow seems to be dissatisfied with Pyongyang's reactions, Japanese officials said.

North Korea says its nuclear program is strictly nonmilitary.

On Wednesday, Kim put South Korea's 650,000-strong army under special alert after North Korea warned that Washington's decision to dispatch six Patriot antimissile batteries to the south will push the Korean peninsula "to the brink of war."

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, originally scheduled to accompany Kim, withdrew from the traveling party on short notice Wednesday probably due to the increasingly tense situation on the Korean peninsula.

Kim's Japan visit will be directly followed by a five-day state visit to China, starting Saturday afternoon.

In a departure ceremony at Seoul airport Thursday, Kim said he will try to obtain support from Japan and China to resolve the nuclear issue and bring North Korea around to reform and openness.

"I will explain to the two leaders of Japan and China that preserving reconciliation and peace on the Korean peninsula is important to ensuring stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region as well as in Northeast Asia," Kim said.

He said North Korea had created confrontation on the Korean peninsula by failing to allow unhindered inspections of its nuclear facilities and make progress in inter-Korean dialogue. "While keeping the channel of dialogue open, South Korea, with the firm security commitment of the United States, is also fully determined to fight against any possible provocation by North Korea," he said.

Hosokawa, Kim Discuss DPRK Issue

OW2403123294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and South Korean President Kim Yong-sam shared concerns on Thursday over North Korea's alleged nuclear weapons program and agreed that cooperation among Japan, South Korea and the United States is important in solving the problem, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Hosokawa and Kim also agreed in a meeting at the Akasaka state guesthouse on the importance of building future-oriented bilateral relations based on the history of the past, the officials said.

Talks between the two leaders, held amid mounting tension on the Korean peninsula, focused on issues concerning North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development, according to the officials.

Hosokawa and Kim, who arrived earlier in the day for a three-day stay in Japan, agreed that the international community should take a firm stance against North Korea while leaving the door open for dialogue and handling the situation step by step, they said.

Kim described the situation as "very serious," citing Pyongyang's refusal to allow full inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its recent aggressive postures, such as threatening to destroy Seoul "in flames," they said.

Although South Korea will always hold the door open to dialogue with the North, there are limits to its patience if Pyongyang remains obstinate and tries to procrastinate, the officials quoted Kim as saying.

Kim told Hosokawa that South Korea has a good security system, taking into account the possibility of various

"accidental" situations occurring, and that it will do its utmost to maintain stability on the Korean peninsula, the officials said.

He explained the decision to deploy Patriot missiles following talks with the U.S., and also said Seoul and Washington plan to resume the joint Team Spirit military exercise unless North Korea changes its attitude, they said.

The president said he will decide on the specifics of the Team Spirit exercise after he returns home from Beijing, where he will fly on Saturday. He did not specify when the Patriot missiles would be deployed, the officials said.

Hosokawa said Japan will take a "responsible" measure within the spirit of the Constitution if the problem of North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons is brought to the United Nations Security Council, according to the officials.

Hosokawa, who returned on Monday from a three-day visit to China, briefed Kim about his trip and said he conveyed Japan's strict view of the situation and the importance of China's role in solving the problem, they said.

In connection with the nuclear problem, Hosokawa touched on some allegations that Japan intends to build its own nuclear weapons, saying it would be impossible for Japan to do so because of its three-point nonnuclear policy and because it is the only nation to have suffered atomic bombing, the officials said.

He also said Japan supports the peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula in the future.

In their meeting, which lasted over 90 minutes, Hosokawa and Kim, who met last November in Kyongju, South Korea, also agreed on the importance of building a future-oriented relationship by looking correctly at history, the officials said.

The reference was to the 1910-45 Japanese colonization of the Korean peninsula.

Kim was quoted as saying such future-oriented bilateral relations would have great meaning for Asia nations as well as the rest of the world.

Hosokawa and Kim also agreed that Japan, South Korea and Russia should make efforts to effect as soon as possible measures to solve such problems as the return of Koreans left behind on the Russian Far East island of Sakhalin to their homeland, the officials said.

Japan forcibly took tens of thousands of Koreans as laborers to Sakhalin, whose southern half it ruled from 1905 until the end of World War II, but left them behind when the island came under Soviet rule.

About 43,000 ethnic Koreans are currently living on Sakhalin, according to Sakhalin government statistics. Hosokawa said his heart aches to think of the hardships the people left on Sakhalin suffered.

Also during their talks, Hosokawa and Kim exchanged views about their respective political and economic reform efforts, the officials said.

Kim and Hosokawa are scheduled to hold a second round of talks on Saturday to discuss mainly economic matters. They also agreed to discuss the North Korean problem again if necessary, the officials said.

Later Thursday evening, Kim attended a dinner hosted by Emperor Akihito.

On Friday, he will deliver speeches in the Diet and at Waseda University.

Tripartite Approach to DPRK Agreed

OW2403104094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and South Korean President Kim Yong-sam agreed in talks on Thursday to cooperate with the United States on the issue of North Korea's potential nuclear weapons capability, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said Hosokawa and Kim, who arrived in Japan earlier in the day for a three-day official visit, expressed concern over the issue in which North Korea has refused to allow unimpeded inspections of its controversial nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The two leaders also agreed that Japan and South Korea should construct a future-oriented bilateral relationship, while keeping in mind the dark episodes in their past history. The reference was to the Japanese colonization of the Korean peninsula from 1910-45.

Hosokawa and Kim discussed their respective experiences in implementing political reforms in their countries, the officials said.

Kim reportedly said if North Korea tries to buy time on the nuclear issue, there will be a limit to South Korean patience and it will be unavoidable for the international community to take a tough stance.

South Korea has prepared thorough security measures and will start this year's joint military exercises with the United States, code-named "Team Spirit," if Pyongyang does not change its stance, Kim said. He said he will make a concrete decision after his visit to China, which he leaves for from Japan on Saturday.

Hosokawa said it is imperative to leave open an avenue for dialogue with North Korea and to respond step by step.

Kim Invites Emperor To Visit ROK

OW2403113094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam on Thursday [24 March] officially

invited Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to visit South Korea to forge a new future-oriented relationship, the Imperial Household Agency said. "I would like to promote relations between South Korea and Japan from a forward-looking, future-oriented view," a senior Imperial Palace official quoted Kim as saying.

Bilateral relations are still overshadowed by Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945, and anti-Japanese sentiment continues to run high.

Kim and his wife, Son Myong-sun, had a 25-minute audience with the imperial couple in an "overall pleasant atmosphere," Kiyoshi Sumiya, grand master of ceremonies, said.

"I think it would benefit our friendly neighborly relations if we could welcome the emperor and the empress in South Korea. I would like to seize this good opportunity to offer an invitation," Kim told the imperial couple.

The emperor replied it is the Japanese Government's decision on whether he goes abroad.

In an interview ahead of the visit, Kim, who was elected last year to a single five-year term, said he believes he will be able to receive the emperor in Seoul during his term in office.

The emperor told Kim it is important that both nations deepen their exchange while reflecting on history and respecting each other's cultures.

During colonization, Koreans were forbidden from speaking Korean in public and had to adopt Japanese names. In addition, Japan's forced recruitment of tens of thousands of Korean women for wartime military brothels has refueled bitter memories.

Text of Emperor's Banquet Speech

OW2403124194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The following is the full text of Emperor Akihito's speech at the state banquet in honor of South Korean President Kim Yong-sam on Thursday [24 March].

I wish to offer my hearty welcome to your excellency the president of the Republic of Korea, now paying a visit to this country as a state guest with Mrs. Kim Yong-sam. It gives me utmost pleasure to be able to have the company of your excellency, Mrs. Kim Yong-sam and the members of their suite at this banquet.

Your country is the nearest neighbor to us. Exchanges between our people date back to ancient times preceding the descriptions in history books. A variety of arts and sciences were introduced to Japan by your people and our ancestors learned many things from your people.

In the course of long and close exchanges between our two countries, there was a period during which my country inflicted great many sufferings on the people of the Korean peninsula. As I expressed my deep sorrow over this some years ago, I always have the same feeling. Since the end of the war, our people, on the basis of the lesson of the past history, have endeavored to build up unshaken trust and friendship with your people.

I am gratified that friendship and cooperative relations between our two countries have recently been advanced in many different fields thanks to the continuous enthusiasm and efforts of their people and that the ties binding the nations have been strengthened, as seen in the "Korean cultural envoy" events including the Kaya cultural exhibition two years ago, and the international exhibition held in Taejon city last year. I earnestly hope that their mutual understanding will deepen on all possible occasions.

Today, the world is encountering waves of dramatic changes. In this situation, our two countries, as your excellency the president has repeatedly stated, should further solidify their friendly and cooperative ties and blaze hand-in-hand the path to the future. Your excellency has been promoting "the creation of a new Republic of Korea" and making serious efforts to strengthen the relationship between Japan and the Republic of Korea. I am confident that your excellency's present visit to this country will prove to be an extremely significant occasion for the future relations of our two countries.

Although your excellency's stay is short, it is my ardent hope that you will enjoy the spring of our country, meet a broad range of people in various circles, personally observe our country's actual condition, and find your visit fruitful.

With best wishes for the further development of friendship between our two countries, may I now propose a toast to the good health and happiness of your excellency the President and Mrs. Kim Yong-sam, and the prosperity of the people of the Republic of Korea.

Text of Kim's Speech at Banquet

OW2403124794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The following is the full text of South Korean President Kim Yong-sam at the state banquet hosted by Emperor Akihito on Thursday [24 March].

Your majesties, your royal highnesses, your excellencies Prime Minister and Mrs. Hosokawa, distinguished guests,

I am grateful for the warm hospitality that has been extended to my wife, myself and my delegation and also for this splendid dinner.

Your majesty has just made some very kind and friendly comments about the Korean people. I am certain that your remarks will serve as an invaluable catalyst for developing our bilateral relationship.

I am visiting your country in the belief that our two countries must endeavor to build truly neighborly ties of cooperation looking ahead into the future.

As close neighbors, our two countries have interacted with each other in the cultural and other fields for many centuries. We must continue to be such close and good neighbors for millennia to come.

At the turn of the century, it is true, Korean-Japanese relations were put to a severe test by the thunderstorms and turbulent currents of history. But we must not let our past fetter our progress into the future any longer. My conviction is that a new era of strong neighborly ties will surely arrive once we squarely face the past just as it was and have earnestly learned its lessons. Only if our two peoples continue to expand exchanges in all fields will a new good-neighborly relationship surely begin to develop. Our two countries should benefit from the shared advantages of a long history of interaction as well as geographical proximity.

Your majesty,

The fast-approaching century will almost certainly be an Asia-Pacific century. I believe that both our nations face a mandate of history to work together as partners to usher in this new era. This mandate must be fulfilled without fail. The firm resolve of both our peoples bolstered by their shared past experiences will greatly help power the march of mankind toward a new Asia, a new Pacific and a new world.

Your majesty,

Our two countries are jointly pursuing the universal ideals of freedom, democracy and market economics. Both our countries are striving for sweeping reforms and greater openness. With a shared sense of mission, both the Republic of Korea and Japan are now more determined and enthusiastic than ever about building a diverse bilateral relationship on the strength of a broad pubic consensus in both lands.

We must establish a rock-solid bilateral relationship before the present century is out. By building an ROK-Japan partnership in answer to the call of the times, we should together lead the long march into the 21st century of peace and prosperity.

Let us pool our wisdom and strength so that we will be able to proudly pass on to posterity the heirloom of a good neighborly relationship marked by a spirit of mutual help and interdependence.

Distinguished guests,

Please join me in toasting the good health and longevity of their majesties, the boundless prosperity of the Japanese people and the evolution of neighborly ties of cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Japan.

Thank you.

ROK Parts Industries Agreement

OW2403112094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan and South Korea agreed Thursday [24 March] to work together to formulate an industrial program to foster South Korea's parts industries. The accord was reached during a meeting between Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai and his South Korean counterpart Kim Choi-su, who is accompanying President Kim Yong-sam on his three-day visit to Japan from Thursday.

The joint program will feature acceptance by Japanese companies of South Korean trainees and dispatch of technological experts from Japan to South Korea. This is regarded as an effort to nurture small-sized South Korean companies, particularly "supporting" industries such as components makers, an official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) told a news conference.

Under the accord, to be endorsed at Saturday's meeting between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Kim, Seoul will provide business incentives to South Korean parts makers through tax reforms and financial systems, the MITI briefer said. He said the program will be formulated so that it can be officially announced on May 26 when Kumagai and his South Korean counterpart meet again.

During Thursday's meeting between Kumagai and Kim, Tokyo and Seoul also agreed to cooperate on standards and certificates of industrial products and in insurance fields, the MITI official said.

Construction Ministers Meet

OW2403145994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1435 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—South Korea's construction minister urged Japan Thursday [24 March] to allow South Korean contractors to participate in open biddings Japan plans to introduce from April for large-scale public works projects, government officials said. Kim U-sok, who is accompanying President Kim Yong-sam on a three-day visit to Tokyo from Thursday, made the request in a meeting with Koso Igarashi, Japan's construction minister.

Igarashi said that Seoul has to join in a government procurements agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and open its market before being allowed to make bids for Japanese public works. "If South Korea joins the GATT treaty and liberalizes its market, it will be treated like others," Igarashi said.

At the GATT-sponsored Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, completed in December last year, South Korea expressed its willingness to sign the government procurements pact, to come into force in January 1996. To do so, however, requires the country to liberalize its

market first. The country has so far banned foreign contractors from making bids for its projects on their own.

Support for UN Sanctions Against DPRK Voiced

OW2403112594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan will change its laws if necessary to abide by any UN resolution calling for economic sanctions against North Korea for its refusal of full inspection of nuclear facilities, Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito said Thursday. "Japan will be remembered as an irresponsible country in future (if it does not implement sanctions)," Saito told a lecture meeing attended by more than 100 defense experts and business people.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) decided March 21 to refer Pyongyang's refusal of full inspections of its nuclear facilities to the UN Security Council. Saito said Japan believes the Security Council will adopt a resolution next week calling on Pyongyang to accept full inspections of its nuclear facilities by the IAEA.

Japan will implement sanctions in line with the UN resolution within the framework of the war-renouncing Constitution, Saito said, adding that it will amend legislation, if necessary.

"It is the only way for Japan to take. Otherwise, Japan will not be able to dodge accusations that it is an irresponsible country," Saito said.

He said Japan hopes North Korea will retract its refusal to allow the IAEA to carry out full inspections.

He said China, a close ally of Pyongyang, wants the United States, South Korea and other countries concerned to resolve the issue through patient dialogue with North Korea. But Saito said "Japan does not think it is good to spend a long time."

Takemura Urges DPRK 'To Remove Suspicions'

OW2403041494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan still hopes North Korea will opt to remove suspicions that the communist country is secretly developing nuclear weapons, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Thursday [24 March]. "We will continue to expect North Korea to take desirable steps in accordance with international opinion," the top government spokesman told a news conference.

Takemura also said Japan will keep in close touch with the United States and South Korea to exchange views on ways of tackling the growing threats arising from North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development program.

While acknowledging that Tokyo's diplomatic channels to Pyongyang remain closed, Takemura noted that its Foreign Ministry is striving to find ways to persuade North Korea indirectly to remove the suspicions concerning its nuclear development program.

Earlier this week, the International Atomic Energy Agency adopted a resolution referring the issue of North Korea's refusal to accept full inspections to the UN Security Council, which may subsequently consider economic sanctions against Pyongyang.

North Korea slammed Japan on Wednesday for considering backing such sanctions, saying, "if seditious forces dare to put unreasonable pressure upon us in the form of 'sanctions,' we would regard it as something equivalent to 'a declaration of war'."

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will confer with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, who arrived in Tokyo on Thursday for a three-day stay, on possible ways to encourage North Korea to allay concerns that it is developing a nuclear weapon capability.

Tokyo Agrees To Try To Sell More U.S. Chips

OW2403035294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Waikoloa, Hawaii, March 23 KYODO—Japan agreed Wednesday to try to boost the share of U.S. chips in its market but said U.S. manufacturers must make more efforts to sell their products.

A regular two-day meeting on semiconductor trade in Hawaii ended with Japan partially agreeing with U.S. calls to help boost sales of its chips to the automobile, telecommunications and game equipment industries. Both sides agreed to promote cooperation on developing chips from the design stage.

The United States did not make any request for a new numerical target to measure the share of foreign chips in the Japanese market.

Foreign semiconductor makers won more than the targeted 20 percent of the market, stipulated in an earlier agreement, in the final quarter of last year.

After the talks, however, U.S. Assistant Trade Representative Donald Phillips said that although he will not be asking for new numerical targets, a steady rise in U.S. market share is desirable.

The U.S. said large Japanese firms with a big need for semiconductors are not making an effort to buy U.S. chips. They called for Japanese automobile and telecoms firms such as Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) to be represented at the next round of talks.

Japan insisted that major users are fully cooperating in buying U.S. chips, and said U.S. makers are neglecting the Japanese market and instead concentrating on the growing U.S. domestic market.

Microchip Talks With U.S. Said 'Constructive'

OW2403071994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The just-concluded semiconductor trade talks between Japan and the United States were "constructive" in boosting the foreign share of the Japanese microchip market, a senior Trade Ministry official said Thursday.

Hideaki Kumano, vice minister at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), was referring to an accord on industrial cooperation between the two countries for increased foreign access to the Japanese semiconductor market. The agreement was reached during a two-day regular meeting in Hawaii that ended Wednesday.

Japan agreed to a U.S. request for Tokyo's efforts to help expand use of U.S.-made microchips by Japan's automobile, telecommunications and game equipment sectors.

The Japanese Government is prepared to encourage these industrial sectors to step up purchases of U.S. semiconductors, Kumano told a press conference. But he added that does not represent "any government guarantee" that the foreign share of Japan's market will stay above the benchmark 20 percent.

Kumano noted that the government does not ensure any results on ongoing voluntary efforts within the auto industry to expand purchases of U.S.-made auto parts and automobiles.

"It is impossible for the government to ensure results regarding private-sector matters," he said.

On Japan's restraints on car exports to the U.S., Kumano said MITI has yet to decide if it will extend the practice for fiscal 1994 starting in April. U.S. officials have said there is no need for Japan to continue the restraints.

Official Says Auto Purchase Plans Cited in Package

OW2403082994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Voluntary plans by the Japanese auto industry on purchases of U.S. auto parts and automobiles will be referred to in the government's market-opening package to be unveiled next week, a senior trade ministry official said Thursday [24 March].

In the package, set for release Tuesday, the government will probably state it "welcomes" private-sector efforts to boost buying of U.S.-made auto components and automobiles, said the official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. He declined to be named.

But the reference does not mean the government will guarantee results for plans by each carmaker, the official added.

The package will be formulated as a way to resume failed "framework" trade talks between Japan and the United States. The two countries were unable to reach accord on "objective criteria" as a tool to measure Japan's imports.

Voluntary Auto Export Restraint Issue Viewed

OW2403132694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 24 Mar 94

["News focus" by Keiji Urakami: "Japan Moving To Abolish Voluntary Auto Export Restraint"]

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan is poised to scrap a voluntary cap on auto exports to the United States for fiscal 1994 as the 13-year practice has become a white elephant. Speculation that Tokyo will not extend the voluntary export restraint arrangement beyond the current year to March grew after Japan's trade minister recently made remarks in favor of terminating the system.

The auto industry also sounds reluctant to maintain what it views as a practice against free trading.

Moreover, Washington does not regard the practice as a useful tool any more for reducing its huge trade deficit with Tokyo, at a time when U.S.-bound Japanese car exports have slipped below annual ceilings in recent years.

"The U.S. Administration of Bill Clinton basically does not support the auto export quota system," said Hiroshi Kumagai, international trade and industry minister. "If the practice is preserved for another year from April, Tokyo may face accusations from the U.S. that it is forming a cartel," the trade minister said.

Japan began to set annual car export limits in 1981 as a way to ease trade frictions with Washington.

In the first year, Japanese carmakers shipped a total of 1.68 million vehicles to the U.S., a volume that was exactly the same as that year's ceiling. Export records in the next five years also filled ceilings that were raised to as many as 2.3 million vehicles by 1985 in response to brisk Japanese shipments.

But auto exports to the U.S., after turning lower in 1987, are on the decline, chiefly due to increased production by Japanese makers at their U.S. plants in the wake of the yen's sharp gain against the dollar.

As a result, shipments have been below set limits in the past six years despite the gradual lowering of ceilings, finally to 1.65 million vehicles from fiscal 1992. Last year, exports totaled 1.57 million vehicles against the 1.65 million vehicle limit.

For the current year, the situation remains unchanged. Toyota Motor Corp., for example, expects its U.S.-bound shipments to sink below its quota, a Toyota spokesman said. "Car shipments to the U.S. will further drop next year, affected by the operation from March this year of the second Kentucky plant," the spokesman said.

Tatsuro Toyoda, president of Toyota, said, "Japanese makers' car exports to the U.S. in a manner of a local torrential downpour as seen in the past are unlikely to take place in the future."

Washington appears to have no objection to Japan not extending the current voluntary restraint arrangement expiring within a week. Undersecretary of Commerce Jeffrey Garten said, "This is not an issue for us any more."

It would be "a waste of time" for Tokyo to think that keeping the practice would appease Washington in trade disputes, said Garten.

Japan has other reasons to end the voluntary auto export curb.

New trade frameworks established under the recently concluded General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) call for practices like voluntary export restraints to be phased out in four years. Such trade practices are what the government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is adamantly against under its major policy goal of deregulating government controls.

The stance is also in conformity with Japan's opposition to managed trade, a concept Tokyo rejected repeatedly in its trade "framework" talks with the U.S.

Auto industry observers think the latest remarks by Garten may signal Washington's preparedness not to raise objections to Tokyo's decision to terminate the export practice. But MITI appears very guarded about showing new commitments on the issue, voicing fears over possible repercussions on the bilateral trade front at a time when economic ties are in a sensitive phase following the February 11 breakdown of the trade talks between Hosokawa and Clinton.

Hideaki Kumano, vice MITI minister, told Thursday's press conference that MITI Minister Kumagai's recent comment on the issue should not be taken as showing any policy change by Tokyo.

"The trade minister just stated his general impression of Washington's attitude toward the issue," Kumano said. "MITI is still uncommitted about whether or not to extend the trade practice next year."

Auto industry leaders also fear any new commitments from their own side for now may create unnecessary sources of contention with the U.S.

Yutaka Kume, chief of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, said, "The industry wants the auto trade practice to wither away and disappear without noticing it."

MITI is likely to postpone its announcement on the issue beyond the March 31 end of the current year, industry observers said.

Terada Regrets Mexican Candidate's Assassination

OW2403101794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0932 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan expressed regret on Thursday [24 March] at the assassination of a Mexican presidential candidate on Wednesday in Tijuana, near the U.S. border, during an election campaign.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada issued a statement calling the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio an "unfortunate incident" and offered condolences. The statement said if the incident was an act of political terrorism, it is a challenge to Mexico's democracy and all the more regrettable as Japan has been supporting Latin American nations' efforts to become democratic.

Colosio was shot in the head and the abdomen around 5 P.M. shortly after finishing a campaign speech in a poor area of Tijuana. He died later in the evening.

Colosio, 44, was the candidate of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in presidential elections scheduled for August.

Mieno Says Economy Improving, Still Adjusting

OW2403051194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0505 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno said Thursday [24 March] the domestic economy is improving, but more time is needed for the country to crawl out of the adjustment phase.

Consumption and corporate production are recuperating and corporate sentiment is improving, but capital investment is still declining and the labor situation is deteriorating, he said in a speech in Tokyo. He even cautioned that recent bright spots in the economy could have been brought about by factors concerning the fiscal year-end this month.

Mieno added that Japan will have to wait a little longer for stock adjustments to be completed. He went on to say that the capability of private enterprises and financial institutions to manage risks is weakening, and called for the further introduction of a competitive environment within the industry.

The governor warned that financial institutions are not operating entirely in line with basic market principles and a risk control that lacks such fundamentals may even result in greater insecurity.

Further liquidation of nonperforming assets by financial institutions is indispensible for recovery of the Japanese economy, Mieno said.

Referring to the recent rise in long-term interest rates, the governor said this appeared to be a reaction to

overheated expectations of lower interest rates triggered by a recovery in Japanese stock prices.

Mieno said any excessive movement of the rates is likely to be corrected in line with the realities of business conditions. With respect to efforts to beef up Japan's financial system, Mieno noted the need to improve methods of settlement, in addition to changes in corporate accounting and the tax system.

Mieno Chides Finance Sector's 'Pack Mentality'

OW2403072494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0709 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Bank of Japan governor Yasushi Mieno chided the country's financial institutions Thursday [24 March] for having a "pack" mentality, urging more competition for the sector. In a Tokyo speech, Mieno said that the long recession after the collapse of the late 1980s speculative bubble highlights the dangers of the financial industry concentrating its lending in one area, such as real estate.

Mieno said private risk-management ability has weakened, citing a financial sector tendency "to use industry averages as a benchmark and stay in the pack," unaware that "ill-managed behavior in one corner can spread risk through the sector."

Noting competition-forced innovations in domestic industries such as autos and electronics, the central bank chief said most financial sector improvements have been copied from abroad, and asked "why is it that innovation is hard to come by for Japanese financial institutions?"

Reforms needed to strengthen the financial sector center on letting the market more effectively drive financial institutions to seek profits while shareholders and other market players discipline "excessive behavior," Mieno said.

He praised December's Hiraiwa Commission report calling for deregulation, called on institutions to improve their risk management procedures and urged beefing up of such financial "infrastructure" as accounting and disclosure systems.

Regulation and surpervision remain essential to "embed moral standards in financial institutions," but regulations focus heavily on risks while the market constantly balances risks with rewards, Mieno said.

The concentration on real estate-related lending in the bubble era has left financial institutions saddled with huge nonperforming assets, which they must write off to allow full recovery, Mieno said. He repeated that adjustments need not be complete for recovery to begin but said they will continue to retard a return to full-throttle growth.

Bright spots continue to emerge, but more time is needed for stock and balance sheet adjustments and responses to increasing international competition, he said.

Mieno noted that some areas of consumption and industrial production are brightening but said capital spending and labor conditions continue to worsen. He cautioned that such recent signs as higher output from mines and factories somewhat reflect a typical surge toward the end of the fiscal year in March.

"Conditions are falling in place for a better-balanced growth," but some excess capacity run up in the bubble days may never be fully used, he said.

Council Urges Telecommunications Competition

OW2403152794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1508 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The Telecommunications Council on Thursday [24 March] advised Posts and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kanzaki to take steps to encourage free competition among three Japanese long-distance telecommunications service companies. The panel gave its advice to Kanzaki in granting charge cut applications by Japan Telecom Co., DDI Corp. and Teleway Japan Corp., as the three companies all planned the same reduction and sought approval for their plans.

At the moment, conditions are not ripe for free competition among the firms because of continued quasimonopolistic control by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), the council said.

The three firms all proposed an average 12.3 percent cut in the general leased circuit charge for new medium-distance categories. The three companies also sought approval for an average 10.3 percent cut in their high-speed digital transmission service charges.

However, the council recommended to the minister that the proposed charge reduction plans be approved without revision. The rate cuts will be put into effect on April 1.

Ministry: No New Offers on Macroeconomic Steps

OW2403095494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0941 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The finance minister has no new offers on macroeconomic measures for Japan's trade package to be compiled by the end of the month, a senior ministry official said Thursday [24 March].

"There were no specific talks on macroeconomic measures...and we can't offer something new" regarding permanent tax cuts or boosting public works spending, Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito told a scheduled news conference. Saito was referring to an earlier meeting he attended at the Diet between Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii and Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura.

The government has promised to enact tax measures by the end of the year. Steps envisaged include a permanent cut in income taxes and raising indirect levies such as the

consumption tax. The government has also said it will consider boosting its 10-year 430 trillion yen public works spending program if funding can be secured.

Takemura told a separate news conference that he wants to include "direction" of macroeconomic measures in the March package, but details will take until June to work out. But the chief government spokesman said he "fully recognizes" the ministry's "unchanged" cautious macroeconomic stance.

Saito said the meeting covered only "general discussions," adding, "you (reporters) shouldn't speculate."

Lower House Committee Agrees on 1995 Tax Cuts

OW2403145794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1437 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—A lower house committee on Thursday [24 March] approved a proposal for major tax cuts in 1995 and beyond to follow the planned cuts for 1994.

Finance committee directors of the House of Representatives approved the proposal to add to the special income tax reduction bill a provision calling for further income tax cuts in 1995 and beyond. The proposal was made by the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in an amendment to the bill submitted to the committee earlier in the day.

The current bill calls for an income tax reduction only for 1994.

The amendment is due for approval at a lower house plenary session on Friday evening.

The ruling coalition earlier agreed to decide on a sweeping tax reform plan, including additional income tax cuts, by the end of the year.

Private Rail Unions Threaten To Strike 25 Mar

OW2403134994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1331 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Private railway unions on Thursday [24 March] threatened a 24-hour strike Friday affecting more than 22 million people if they fail to resolve their differences with management over demands for a wage increase. The companies are asking their unions to accept a benchmark monthly wage increase of 10,800 yen, but the unions are pushing for a 4 percent increase of 11,600 yen.

Late Thursday evening it was still unclear whether last-minute talks would avert a strike.

Bus services by nine companies and train services by 12 companies could affect some 22,100,000 people. In the Kanto region centered on Tokyo they include the Tobu, Tokyu, Keisei railway lines and lines operated by Teito Rapid Transit Authority, Keio Teito, and Sagami Railway, and in the Chubu region centered on Nagoya, the Nagoya Railroad Union.

In the Kansai region centered on Osaka and Kyoto they include the Hankyu, Hanshin, Keihan, and Nankai railway lines, and in Kyushu the Nishi Nippon Railroad lines.

Workers Offered 'Lowest' Postwar Wage Hikes

OW2403153094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Key industries on Thursday [24 March] offered wage hikes this year that are the lowest since the end of World War II amid the prolonged economic slump, labor unions said. The Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), Japan's largest umbrella of trade unions, said the steel, automobile, shipbuilding and heavy machinery, and electrical machinery industries offered wage hikes of between 1.56 percent and 3.3 percent.

The level of wage increases to be attained by the four key industries is regarded as a pacesetter for other industries in wage negotiations.

Unions of the steel, automobile, and shipbuilding and heavy machinery industries accepted the offer.

If the unions accept the offer, the average margin of wage hikes of the major industries will be at the lower half of the 3 percent level, falling below the previous low of 3.5 percent in 1987. At that time, the country's export-driven economy suffered setbacks due to the yen's appreciation brought about by the 1985 Plaza Accord among major industrialized countries to engineer a stronger yen, Labor Ministry officials said.

Unions of nine electric power companies accepted a hike of 9,950 yen per month, or 3.05-3.14 percent, down from 12,100 yen last year.

Major private railway unions, which threaten to stage a 24-hour strike on Friday, are expected to call off the strike after management offered a hike of 11,400 yen, or 3.94 percent, in negotiations Thursday night.

Most unions, pressed to choose between jobs and wage hikes under the recession, are expected to accept the proposals to secure jobs, labor officials said.

Five major steelmakers jointly proposed a hike of 1.56 percent, or 4,500 yen per month. The previous year's wage hike was 2.65 percent, or 7,500 yen. The steelmakers are Nippon Steel Corp., NKK Corp., Kawasaki Steel Corp., Sumitomo Metal Industry Ltd., and Kobe Steel Ltd.

Nippon Steel was the only one of the five not to skip dividends to shareholders in the 1993 business year ending March 31.

Seventeen major electrical machinery firms, meanwhile, proposed raising wages by a uniform 3.05 percent, against the labor demand for a 3.2 percent hike.

The firms' unions, which threatened a 12-hour strike from Friday noon, are expected to accept the offer.

Among the 17 were Hitachi Ltd., Toshiba Corp., Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Mitsubishi Electric Corp., NEC Corp. and Fujitsu Ltd.

In the automobile industry, Toyota Motor Corp. proposed a hike of 3.06 percent, or an average 9,200 yen, in monthly wages. Negotiating sessions between management and unions are expected to settle on this level even though the unions have demanded a rise of 5 percent, or 9,600 yen, Toyota officials said.

Nissan Motor Co. offered its workers a hike of 2.89 percent, or 8,400 yen.

Managements of seven leading shipbuilders proposed increasing wages by a uniform 3.3 percent, or 9,700 yen per month, officials said.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), said that the wage proposals reflected a "wise choice" of both management and labor to place priority on jobs.

Court Rejects Suit for Halt to Nuclear Project

OW2403061394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0546 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Niigata, March 24 KYODO—The Niigata District Court on Thurday [24 March] turned down a suit seeking a halt to a 1977 government decision that allowed a power utility firm to build a nuclear power plant in the sea of Japan coast city of Kashiwazaki, Niigata Prefecture. The three-judge panel said it could not find reason to necessitate the cancellation of the permission by the minister of international trade and industry.

The court acted on the suit filed in 1979 by a group of 282 residents who questioned the safety of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant, which was built by Tokyo Electric Power Co.

The plaintiffs demanded the annulment of the permission, citing a geologists' report that they had discovered an enlarging fracture of the surface of the land that consists of layers of sandstone and mudstone. The crustal fracture is known among geologists as the terao fault.

While the court case dragged on over 15 years, Tokyo Electric Power completed the installation of five nuclear reactors in the complex. Four of the five are now in operation and construction of two more reactors is under way.

If the additional two are completed, the complex would rank among the world's largest nuclear power plants by having an aggregate power-generating capability of 8,210 megawatts.

Presiding Judge Yukio Ota said in the ruling, "there is no sufficient evidence that would substantiate a hypothesis that the terao fault resulted from some problems in the geological structure." The ruling went on to say, "there are no serious mistakes in the judgment of the government which concluded that the firmness of the ground supporting the power plant cannot be eroded by a possible movement of the earth's crust."

The plaintiffs also argued that the power company has not taken sufficient safety measures to prevent a possible calamity like the 1986 reactor meltdown in Chernobyl, then in the Soviet Union, or the 1979 accident at the Three-Mile Island power plant in the United States. The judge said the government's recognition of the safety of the design of the Kashiwazaki plant cannot be questioned, as the nuclear disasters in Chernobyl and Three-Mile Island stemmed from mistakes in operation management or defective design of the nuclear reactors.

The ruling, however, recognized the plaintiffs' assertion that the government's safety standard was too lenient.

The safety standard at the time stipulated that the tolerable dosage of exposure of residents to radiation from the nuclear plant was 0.5 roentgen equivalent man (rem) per year. In 1989 the standard was tightened to 0.1 rem.

The ruling said, "at present, the court questions the rationale of the tolerable radiation exposure figure of 0.5 rem for the public, which was used by the government in examining the safety of the plant in this case." Yoki Kawada, director general of the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy, said, "the ruling that recognized the assertions of the government on this case was appropriate and the government will continue to expedite the development and use of nuclear power plants."

North Korea

Country Said 'Ready To Reopen Talks' With U.S.

OW2403055994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0551 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] New York, March 23 KYODO—North Korea is ready to reopen talks with the United States over its alleged nuclear weapons program provided Washington makes some concessions, a North Korean official said here Wednesday.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, the official with North Korea's mission to the United Nations said Washington must cancel plans to hold joint military exercises with South Korea and demonstrate that it seeks to solve the nuclear controversy in negotiations.

The U.S. and South Korea earlier this week agreed in principle to resume the large-scale maneuvers known as "Team Spirit."

The move came after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that its inspectors had not been allowed to carry out certain measures at North Korea's nuclear facilities and the IAEA referred the matter to the UN Security Council.

The official also said Pyongyang would allow the IAEA to hold follow-up inspections to make sure that North Korea has not diverted any nuclear material for military purposes, provided high-level U.S.-North Korea talks take place.

In an earlier deal, Washington had agreed to such talks on condition that North Korea allow full nuclear inspections and exchange special envoys with South Korea.

Washington called off the talks that were to have started in Geneva on Monday and Pyongyang then said it would not attend.

The official declined to reveal whether Washington and Pyongyang had made any unofficial contacts since the IAEA on Monday referred the North Korean issue to the UN Security Council.

Pointing to "40 years of friendly relations" with China "dating back to the hard times of the Korean War," the official expressed confidence that Beijing would not support any move to force North Korea to comply with the inspection demands.

The five permanent members of the Security Council on Wednesday conferred privately on a resolution urging North Korea to accept unrestricted inspections, but the Chinese envoy on Tuesday declined to discuss the text on grounds that such a measure is premature.

Wednesday was the third day in a row that Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States met over the issue.

China could use its veto power to block any council action aimed at bringing North Korea into line.

Asked after the talks if China would abstain or vote against the U.S.-proposed resolution, China's envoy Li Zhaoxing said that he does not intend to comment on the matter "at the present stage."

British Ambassador David Hannay, however, voiced expectations that China will abstain, pointing to China's constructive attitude in preparing the resolution. "China is not blocking the drafting procedures," Hannay said.

China abstained together with Pakistan when the Security Council adopted a resolution last may urging North Korea to reconsider its suspended decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Envoy: Government Not Bound by IAEA Obligations

JN2303194494 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (SANA)—Pak Di-chun [name as received], ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Damascus, has said his country has decided not to send its delegation to the third round of Korean-U.S. negotiations. Nor will it continue to consider itself bound by its obligations to the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA].

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, the ambassador said this follows the distortion by the United States and the IAEA of the results of the recent inspection of its nuclear facilities. This was used as a pretext to pressure the DPRK.

He said his government took this measure based on the principles contained in the Korean-U.S. agreement reached in New York on 23 February 1994 which stipulate a simultaneous move on both sides to secure the full implementation of this agreement.

He said it is his government's firm and continuous position not to abide by its pledges to the United States as long as the latter is breaking its pledges.

The Korean ambassador noted that the United States resorted to distorting and fabricating the issue dealing with the IAEA's inspection. It used it as an excuse to resume joint military maneuvers with South Korea and to threaten the use of force to exert pressure against the Korean Government. Moreover, it reveals a U.S. intention to have the UN Security Council impose sanctions on his country. He said the United States should make an accurate and responsible assessment of the current situation.

The ambassador expressed his deep appreciation of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for supporting his government's just and reasonable stand toward the nuclear issue.

Patriot Deployment Termed 'Extremely Agitating'

SK2403060394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] According to reports, the United States is deliberately driving the situation of the Korean peninsula to a war phase [kyehoekchoguro choseonbandoui chongserul chonjaeng kungmyonero moragago issumnida] after rupturing the DPRK-U.S. talks.

As has been learned, the United States completely turned over [chonmyon twijibo opko] the agreement reached at the New York DPRK-U.S. contact and broke up [patansikigo] the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks. Nevertheless, the United States poses open [nogolhwa] military threats and pressure against us under unjust pretexts, shifting the responsibility for the rupture of the talks to us.

U.S. President Clinton made a very provocative order [maeu tobalchogin myongnyong] to deploy 192 Patriot missiles in South Korea as soon as the DPRK-U.S. talks came to a rupture, as though he had been waiting for it.

The U.S. Department of Defense said that a Patriot missile battalion with some 40 missile launching ramps and 850 soldiers was going to move from Texas, the United States, to South Korea, according to the order. The U.S. measure of deploying Patriot missiles in South Korea is threatening and extremely agitating [simhi

chaguk]. It is a kind of declaration of overall confrontation with us [uri-e taehan ilchongui chonmyon taegyol sonon], a declaration of war.

According to the U.S. newspaper WASHINGTON POST dated 22 March, the U.S. Administration is plotting a scheme to take next-stage military steps against us [urirul pandaehanun taum tangyeui kunsajok chochidurul chwihaeyogo hoekchukhago issumnida].

Following the decision to deploy Patriot missiles, the U.S. Administration is trying to dispatch additional U.S. military forces to South Korea, to move and deploy U.S. aircraft carriers along the coastline of the Korean peninsula, and to arm the U.S. Forces in South Korea and the South Korean puppet Army with new military equipment.

The British newspaper EVENING STANDARD reported that a U.S. naval fleet with 30 naval vessels was approaching an area where it can reach our country's coast in 24 hours. This fleet has two mobile aircraft carrier units and landing operations forces, including the Marine Corps, aboard.

According to Japan's MAINICHI SHIMBUN dated 19 March, the U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Carl Vinson lately departed from Japan's Yokosuka Port with six escort ships and is maintaining a mobile posture heading toward the Korean peninsula.

Prior to this, the U.S. aircraft carrier Independence led by the Mobile Bay, an Aegis missile cruiser; (7Bainbridge), a guided missile cruiser; and two frigates had called at Port Yokosuka. They are also preparing against a possible case by standing by within the reach of the Korean peninsula.

Meanwhile, the U.S. warmongers are openly disclosing its plot to resume the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise, and the bellicose remarks on the Team Spirit continue to resound from the Congress.

The Democratic whip leader in the House of Representatives and the Republican whip leader in the Senate, in an interview with NBC Television, raved that the United States should resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise so as to impose pressure on North Korea by actually carrying it out.

We cannot but say such ill-boding military moves, containing the danger of a war provocation, will only bring out vigilance [undanghan kyonggaesim].

'War-Thirsty' U.S. 'Conservatives' Criticized

SK2403044494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 24 Mar 94

["Outbursts of U.S. War-Thirsty Elements"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—High-placed politicians of the United States are now getting frenzied in the kickup for pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, according to a report from Washington.

Democratic leader of whip in the House of Representatives Richard Gephardt said the United States must deploy Patriot missiles in South Korea, resume the "Team Spirit" nuclear war exercises and additionally dispatch U.S. troops to South Korea. Republican leader of whip in the Senate Robert Dole also made such remarks, crying for "a deliberation of economic sanctions against North Korea."

Meanwhile, U.S. State Secretary Christopher, in his interview with CBS, openly revealed the intention to put pressure on the DPRK by abusing "a resolution of the United Nations" and thus bring the situation of the Korean peninsula to a hopeless phase.

All this clearly indicates that the U.S. hardline conservatives are invariably pursuing the reckless policy of isolating and stifling the DPRK.

Any pressure and sanctions, however, can never work with the DPRK. The Korean people value peace. But, they will not tolerate anyone who dares infringe upon the nation's sovereignty and dignity.

The U.S. war-thirsty elements would be well advised to stop running rashly, clearly knowing of the DPRK where the leader, the party and the popular masses are united in one mind.

Daily Denounces U.S. for 'Nuclear Blackmail'

SK2403105294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 24 Mar 94

["MINJU CHOSON Slams Nuclear Threat of U.S. Military"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. military recently discussed the "possibility of the use of nuclear weapons" allegedly to "check" the chemical and biological weapon "attack" from non-nuclear states.

Branding this as an unpardonable crime, a MINJU CHOSON analyst today says:

The open argument for the "possibility of the use of nuclear weapons" by the U.S. military contradicts the principle of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NFT).

The NFT itself is an inequitable treaty favorable only for the nuclear-weapon states. Moreover, the United States, a nuclear power, is presenting nuclear threat to non-nuclear states, frequently violating the NPT, which it signed.

Its nuclear threat still remains and is getting more undisguised today after the end of the Cold War, not to speak of the Cold War era.

The United States is intensifying nuclear threat to the DPRK, a non-nuclear and peaceful state. Although the United States in its joint statement with the DPRK in

June last year committed itself not to use force of arms including nuclear weapons or pose a threat, it has never ceased nuclear blackmail to the DPRK with nuclear war exercises targeted against it.

The U.S. is increasing its nuclear threat to the DPRK by manipulating even the International Atomic Energy Agency. It has reversed the agreed conclusions reached at the DPRK-U.S. contact in New York and is going to stage the Team Spirit 94 joint military maneuvers, a nuclear war game against the DPRK.

The United States is a nuclear war criminal who has already imposed nuclear disaster on humanity.

The United States must clearly see the demand of the times and the desire of the world people and act with discretion.

Hanminjon Condemns U.S. 'Provocation Moves'

SK2403052094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 24 Mar 94

["Hanminjon Central Committee Issues Detailed Report on War Provocation Moves of U.S. Imperialists and S. Korean authorities"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) recently published a "Detailed Report on the War Crisis on the Korean Peninsula" concerning the ever more open war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the Kim Yong-sam group against the North, according to the Seoul-based Radio Voice of National Salvation.

Recalling that the U.S. imperialists have already worked out a war scenario to cope with a "case of emergency" on the Korean peninsula under the pretext of the fictitious "nuclear issue" and abruptly turned toward the provocation of an adventurous war against the North, the detailed report says:

WASHINGTON POST December 2, 1993 reported that in case a military conflict broke out on the Korean peninsula, the U.S. Forces would dispatch 500,000-strong reinforcements including six aircraft carriers, eleven army brigades equipped with heavy arms, thirty-four combat flying corps and four flying corps of bombers, which are nearly equivalent to a half of the U.S. combat units. This is the kernel of the war scenario written by the U.S. Defence Department to cope with a "case of emergency". The U.S. imperialists have designed even a U.S.-South Korea-Japan military command system, not to speak of a U.S.-South Korea operational command system to perform the above war scenario.

On September 27, 1993, former U.S. Defence Secretary Aspin, at his talks with the director-general of the Japan Defence Agency, decided on the involvement of the Japanese "Self-Defense Forces" in a war against the north of Korea and its share in it. On the basis of the "new military strategy", the United States is reorganising and reinforcing its huge aggression forces in and around the Korean peninsula.

The 95,000-strong U.S. Army, Naval fleets and Marine Corps stationed in South Korea and Japan are waiting for an order of action, while twelve of the thirteen U.S. aircraft carriers in the pacific are alerted as an "emergency relief force". The bellicose Kim Yong-sam group has completed the wartime system, while brutally cracking down on the struggle of the people for independence and democracy, peace and reunification with "civilian" fascist tyrany.

It formed a mobile army corps of the "ROK Army" allegedly for a "case of emergency" and revised the "system of examination for conscription" so it could draft any civilian into the army any time. And it has supplied to 3,800 officers of the "reserve forces" the same combat uniforms as those for the officers in active service, doubled the combat police force and modernised the combat equipment to be hurled into a war any time.

The U.S. imperialists plan of war against the North is near the danger line for going over to a real war.

If the reckless war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique against the North are not frustrated quickly, our fellow countrymen will suffer a disaster, the detailed report says, and stresses:

Anyone who opposes war and wishes to live in peace must rise up to shatter the war provocation moves against the North and expel the U.S. imperialist aggressors and overthrow the traitorous Kim Yong-sam group.

U.S., ROK Joint Military Exercises Denounced

SK2403045294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 24 Mar 94

["Tension Further Strained"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—Some 400 Japan-based U.S. fighters and fighter-bombers, assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes of the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the South Korean puppet airforce staged provocative joint air war exercises in the sky above Chunchon, Pyongchang, Yongwol and Kongju of South Korea on March 21 and 22, according to military sources.

Meanwhile, the South Korean puppet army on the same days fired more than 50 shells with tank guns at the area near the demilitarized zone from Paju county, and on the 22d fired some 2,000 bullets with large-calibre machine-guns and automation rifles, advancing towards the Military Demarcation Line from Paju County and Yonchon County.

They launched exercises for surprise strike at the targets and disturbance in the rear, repeatedly dropping "commandoes" in Paju county on March 21 and 22.

The tension on the Korean peninsula is being screwed up by the war provocative moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets at a time when the schemes for "sanctions" against the DPRK are being hatched up in the arena of the United Nations and the U.S. aggression forces are moving towards the Korean peninsula from the U.S. mainland and U.S. military bases in the Pacific region.

Kim Yong-sam's Military Alertness Order Decried

SK2403023194 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] According to reports from Seoul, on 22 March, traitor Kim Yong-sam, who is madly engaged in war provocation maneuvers against the North [pukchim chonjaeng tobal chaektonge michyo naittwigoiraun], ordered the entire puppet armed forces to be put on alert [chonche kwoeroegun muryogi kyonggye taese-o turogaigosul chiryonghaetsumnida]. The traitor called together the puppet defense minister, the chairman of the puppet Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the chiefs of the General Staff of the puppet Army, Navy, and Air Force in the presidential office to hold secret talks that day. He gave the above order while asking them to completely prepare for a northward invasion under the so-called cooperation system with the United States.

Prior to this, on 21 March, the traitor called a security-related ministers meeting at the presidential office to discuss a secrete scheme to invite outside forces to apply sanctions against the North [taebuk chojae-e oeseoi kkuroduril kkung-kkung-irul kkumyossumnida].

Meanwhile, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Headquarters ordered the entire puppet military forces to be on special alert on 23 March. Accordingly, all puppet military officers and men are confined to their barracks, and all military officers have assumed a stand-by posture.

On 23 March, the U.S. ambassador to Seoul, the commander of the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea, the puppet defense minister, and the puppet foreign minister held a meeting in Seoul to plot a war conspiracy for northward invasion [pukchim chonjaeng mosi]. According to reports, they intensively discussed the issue of introducing Patriot missiles in South Korea and resuming the Team Spirit joint military exercise, schemed about double-checking the South Korea-based U.S. occupation forces and the puppet armed forces readiness in war preparations [choenjaeng chunbi tae-seul chaejomgom].

The rascals' insane [mumohan] maneuvers are driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war [chosonbandoui chongsenun choejaeng chopkyonguro chidaggo issumnida].

Daily Denounces 'Declaration of War' by South

SK2403053694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam group called "a security-related ministers meeting" on March 21 to deliberate on "the policy toward the North" and adopt "a decision" to restart the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and deploy Patriot missiles in a short time in South Korea after "consultation" with the United States.

Commenting on this, MINJU CHOSON today says this is virtually a declaration of total confrontation and a declaration of war against the North.

Noting that the situation of the Korean peninsula has been brought to a very dangerous phase by this reckless act of the puppets, the analyst says:

The projected resumption of the "Team Spirit," a test nuclear war for "a forestalling attack" on the North, and an early deployment of Patriots in South Korea are aimed at intentionally throwing a snag in the way of the solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, pushing ahead with war preparations in real earnest and, further, unleashing another war against the North.

In actuality, the puppet army forces were put on "emergency alert" shortly after the puppet rulers made the reckless provocative declaration. We cannot but take a very serious view of this. No matter how desperately such fools as Kim Yong-sam may try to overpower our people with something like the "Team Spirit" and Patriots, they can never frighten our people.

We will decisively cope with the South Korean puppets' moves of confrontation and war and resolutely defend the security of our socialist homeland and nation.

The United States had better look squarely at the reality, clearly mindful that it has nothing to get and beneficial, though it gives a shot in the arm to such fools as Kim Yong-sam.

It must act with discretion, knowing well of our people whom it is dealing with.

Daily Criticizes ROK's 21 Mar Security Meeting

SK2403095194 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0830 GMT 23 Mar 94

[NODONG SINMUN 23 March commentary: "Confrontation Commotions by Those Who Dig Their Own Graves"]

[Text] Traitor Kim Yong-sam of South Korea called a security-related ministers meeting at the presidential office on 21 March to examine the policy toward the North and the security posture regarding the so-called nuclear issue of the North.

At the meeting the puppet traitor babbled that the nuclear issue of the North had reached an important point and gave an instruction to assume a complete military security posture against someone else's provocation.

Shortly before the presidential office meeting, U.S. President Clinton sent a personal letter to puppet traitor Kim Yong-sam through the U.S. ambassador. The letter

reportedly noted that the United States reaffirmed its security commitment to South Korea and stated that it would strengthen the South Korea-U.S. joint defense posture.

The puppets hastily convened a security-related ministers meeting and made a fuss as if they made a decision on an important issue. However, there is nothing new. They merely reiterated the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise and the early deployment of Patriot missiles in consultation with the United States, their master.

The puppets' fuss at the presidential office is a reckless act to deliberately bring the situation to the phase of war after breaking up [kyollyol] the contact of working-level delegates for the exchange of top-level special envoys between the North and South.

The puppets themselves broke up the contact of working-level delegates for the exchange of special envoys, hastily convened what is called a security-related ministers meeting as inspired by the United States, and made some decisions for confrontation with us. We cannot overlook the fact that these maneuvers by the puppets can destroy [pagoe] peace on the Korean peninsula and inflict a nuclear catastrophe on the nation.

In consultation with the United States, the Kim Yong-sam ring declared they would resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise against us, its fellow countrymen, and deploy Patriot missiles in a short time. This clearly shows the rascals [nomdul] are dirty national traitors who seek a way out in harming their fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces. The puppets' act shows their antinational colors as those who break up North-South dialogue, harm their fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces, play a role in destroying the DPRK-U.S. talks [chomiboedamui pagoe chagyongui hago], and bring North-South relations to an unpredictable phase of confrontation.

The reality again shows that if the Kim Yong-sam ring is left untouched, no dialogue or peace on the Korean peninsula can be achieved, but only confrontation and a catastrophe of nuclear war will result.

As we have declared time and again, we are fully prepared to answer dialogue with dialogue and war with war.

We are not afraid [goennalgeot opta] even if the South Korean puppets resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise and deploy Patriot missiles and anything more sophisticated [paetriotu misailbbunanira kuhanaebiral] in a short time.

We do not like empty talk.

Our people and People's Army will severely punish the traitors who attempt to harm and stifle [mohae spoal] their fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces and will resolutely defend our socialist fatherland and the security of the nation.

The Kim Yong-sam ring must know that its futile traitorous attempt to enter into confrontation with its fellow countrymen will bring its own destruction. The United States had better know that there is nothing to gain and nothing good for it even if it instigates and gives a shot in the arm [jumurugo ipkimul puronoeun] to such a fool as Kim Yong-sam, who is writhing because he was forsaken by the nation and became a target for overthrow.

Kim Yong-sam Termed 'Pro-Japanese Traitor'

SK2403105494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 24 Mar 94

["NODONG SINMUN on Pro-Japanese Flunkeyist Treachery of Traitor Kim Yong-sam"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—One of the heaviest crimes committed by the traitor Kim Yong-sam in a little more than one year since he took office is that he placed outside forces above the nation and harmed and sold away the interests of the nation for the benefit of outside forces, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

Citing concrete facts proving that Kim Yong-sam the traitor fully laid bare his true color as a pro-Japanese traitor in the relations with Japan, the article says:

Last year, he often met Japanese reactionaries and made a clean sheet of the Japanese imperialists' history of aggression on Korea and crossed off the thrice-cursed crimes committed by them against the Korean people in the past including the drafting of "comfort women for the army" and flung the door open for their reinvasion, saying that the relations between South Korea and Japan must developed into "new ones".

Worse still, he entreated the Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to suspend the DPRK-Japan talks for normalising diplomatic relations till the "nuclear and missile issues" of the North were completely settled and to take a joint action with South Korea and cried that "the axis of South Korean diplomacy is predominant relations with Japan and the United States."

Kim Yong-sam is throwing himself deeper into the military and economic spheres of Japan in an attempt to keep his power with the backing of Japan. He further broadened economic opening to the Japanese reactionaries than his predecessors and is moving toward legalising the infiltration of the reactionary culture of Japan.

It is only too natural that the traitor Kim Yong-sam who pays no heed to the dignity and interests of the nation and commits treacheries to gratify his greed for power has become a target of overthrow by the people.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam will face a stern judgement by history for his treasonous crimes.

DLP Chairman's Remarks Called 'Anti-Compatriot'

SK2403055594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Chong-pil, "chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]" of South Korea, told "an enlarged caucus meeting" on March 21 that though many people contend that dialogue should be held with the North because it is the same nation, "the government must show a cold and strong reaction" to it.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says his remarks were an anti-compatriot declaration for cutting off even the bonds between the North and the South as the same nation, and a declaration of confrontation and war.

The analyst says:

Rejecting fellow countrymen and pursuing confrontation and war is inconceivable for a Korean.

The traitor Kim Chong-pil is a pro-Japanese, pro-American stooge and an anti-communist fascist who served the defunct dictator Pak Chong-hui as his right-hand man and prolonged his dirty life by depending on outside forces, estranged from the fellow countrymen.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst says such a traitor as Kim Chong-pil, who is fostering antagonism and confrontation within the nation and bringing the situation to an all the more grave phase must be removed with the traitor Kim Yong-sam.

GFTUK Issues Report on ROK Labor Conditions

SK2303063694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 23 Mar 94

["White Paper of C.C., GFTUK on Wages Conditions of South Korean Workers"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The Central Committee [C.C.] of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea [GFTUK] on March 22 published a white paper on the wage conditions of the South Korean workers.

Noting that the South Korean workers now are subsisting on unprecedented-in-scale starvation wages due to the Kim Yong-sam group's anti-popular labor policy and wage-curbing steps, the white paper cites concrete facts proving this.

According to the white paper, the wages conditions of South Korean workers can be seen graphically in the size of their nominal wages per hour which are a meagre one-eighth or one-ninth of those in Western countries and far below those of the workers in Asian capitalist countries.

The wages gap between workers in South Korea is very wide, depending on their schooling and sex.

A South Korean university professor said the difference between uneducated workers and university graduates in terms of income was in a ratio of 1 to 37 in case of men and 1 to 54 in case of women.

Wages of South Korean female workers account for only 42.6 percent of male workers.

The proportion of women among the young workers aged between 13 and 29 in South Korea is 58 percent. Mainly engaging themselves in the fibre, shoemaking, toymaking and electronic industries, women are forced to slave labor of 12 to 16 hours a day on low monthly wages of 300,000 or 400,000 won.

Worse still, South Korean workers have to do extra-hour work for three or five days a week, yet not a few workers are paid less than the "minimum wages" fixed by the puppets in the "Labor Law".

Their wages are far below the minimum living cost and, to make matters worse, they have to pay most of the meagre wages in taxes, instead of using them to keep the pot boiling.

At present, more than 200 kinds of taxes are levied upon the workers in South Korea. Even according to data released by the puppet authorities, the rate of tax burdens in South Korea rose to 20.2 percent in 1994 from 16.5 percent of 1986, and the amount of tax burdens per head of the population increased to 1,316,000 won in 1994 from 1,125,000 won of 1993. In case of a family of five they have to pay 6.58 million won per annum in taxes.

The workers' wages in South Korea are too insignificant compared with the annually rising commodity prices. A South Korean newspaper reported that the rate of the jump of consumer prices in the 1983-93 period was not 68.7 percent published by the authorities but five times higher than that.

House purchasing prices in South Korea are five to six times those in the United States and Japan which are believed highest in the world.

If a wage-earner with a monthly pay of 400,000 won is to buy a flat of 20 pkyong (one pkyong equals six feet square), he has to save his wages for more than 50 years, neither eating nor spending.

South Korean primary school children must pay more than 820,000 won, middle school pupils 970,000 won and high school students 1,230,000 won annually. Besides, there are miscellaneous fees of various names they have to pay monthly, which run into hundreds of thousands of won. Most of the workers who want their children to go to high school or university have to make them do their own cooking. In this case, monthly charges for a boarding room alone amount to 310,000 to 370,000 won.

The South Korean workers today are suffering from chronic occupational diseases and all kinds of illness as

they are forced into high-intensity labor for long hours under coarse work conditions.

In South Korea a medical examination costs 5,000 won, and a medical checkup for antigen, electrocardiogram and the stomach consumes respectively 8,000, 8,500 and 13,000 won. Charges for an operation on the stomach are 300,000 won, an operation on appendicitis 100,000 won, and a cornea transplanting operation 180,000 won. When hopitalized, a patient must pay more than 10,000 won a day, excepting the cost of medicines.

When all this is taken into consideration, the South Korean workers' wages account for less than one fourth of the actual cost of living.

This notwithstanding, the comprador businesses under the patronage of the ruling quarters frequently go without paying the small amount of wages of the workers for several months. According to doctored figures published by the competent authorities of South Korea, the unpaid wages of workers in South Korea in recent years added up to 298.1 billion won.

The practice of "keeping wages in arrears" is getting all the more serious since the traitor Kim Yong-sam came to power. According to data, 241 businesses in South Korea were keeping in arrears wages to the tune of 58.1 billion won early this year. This is five times the figure in the corresponding period of 1992. (South Korean newspaper TONGA ILBO, Feb. 4, 1994). The South Korean newspaper HANGYORE SHINMUN predicted that the "wages in arrears" would grow further due to the new regime's "tough wage-curbing policy".

The Kim Yong-sam group is trying to enforce wage-curbing measures like the "no work, no pay" system and the "total wages" system, distorting the reality by arguing that the economic crisis of South Korea resulted from the workers' struggle for a higher pay. It is trying to justify its low wages policy with the rhetoric of "economic rejuvination."

When labor-management disputes over the wages problem broke out, the traitor Kim Yong-sam revealed his true class color, contrary to his calls for "hardship sharing" and "common destiny", by siding with the management and brandishing the sword at the workers.

The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique vowed to make this year the "first year" free of "labor-management disputes", openly betraying its scheme to crack down brutally on the workers' struggle for the right to live. This is an outspoken declaration of war of the "civilian" fascist dictator against the labor movement.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam has squandered money earned with the sweat and blood of workers in arms buildup. According to the content of the 1994 "budgetary expenditures" finalized and published by the South Korean "economic planning agency", military spendings go far beyond 10,000 billion won, or up 9.6 percent from last year in scale. By contrast, the fund earmarked for the "welfare of the working people" accounts for less than one 300th of the military expenditures.

All this shows that the traitor Kim Yong-sam is a fascist dictator, kingpin of plunder and war fanatic stepping up war preparations by bleeding the laboring masses white with the strong arm.

If the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique continues to suppress this year the workers' struggle for their elementary right to live, including their demand for a higher pay, at the point of the bayonet, laying the blame for the economic bankruptcy of South Korea at the door of the workers, it would result in precipitating its own destruction.

Soldiers Returning From South Given Awards

SK2303153194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea recently awarded the title of Hero of the Republic to Kim Chol-chin (23), a non-commissioned officer of the Korean People's Security Forces (KPSF), and the "Kim Il-song Youth Honor Prize" to Kim Kyong-chol (20), a KPSF soldier, who have come back home in triumph by fighting it out with a rock-firm faith and principles as People's Army soldiers, not yielding to the enemy when they were taken [word indistinct] South Korea under unavoidable circumstances.

At the end of January, they were arrested by the South Korean authorities in distress in the West Sea while on military duty.

The enemy employed all conceivable moves to convert the two soldiers.

The enemy put them each in a solitary cell, allured them with money and goods, sent in turncoats to win them over and threatened them, showing them bloody torture rooms.

The enemy, however, could not break the revolutionary constancy and will of the KPSF soldiers who have had iron faith.

Although they were detained by the enemy, they resolutely fought the enemy with a dignified attitude as soldiers of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander, believing him only and sent tremor through the enemy, before coming back to the bosom of the socialist homeland, the bosom of General Kim Chong-il.

Mass Meeting Welcomes Returnees

SK2303154294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang mass meeting took place today in welcome of a non-commissioned officer Kim Chol-chin and a soldier Kim Kyong-chol of the Korean People's Security Forces.

They had been taken away by the enemy in late January after falling unconscious in a storm on the sea. But they steadfastly defended the authority of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and bravely fought as soldiers of comrade supreme commander, undaunted by the enemy's relentless threat, appeasement and deception, and returned in triumph.

When they drifted on the sea, General Kim Chong-il, supreme commander, took all the measures necessary for saving them. Upon hearing about their heroic deeds, he placed great political confidence in them, granting them the honor of being members of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the title of the Hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the "Kim Il-song Youth Honor Prize."

Addressing the meeting, Chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea Choe Yong-hae said the heroic deeds displayed by them in a showdown with the enemy clearly showed that if anyone bravely fought the enemy with the revolutionary faith and indomitable will of trusting and following only comrade supreme commander, he could surely win in any adversity and return to the socialist homeland.

He called on all the working people to keep themselves in full combat readiness to cope with the new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, and rise up like a mountain and defend the honor of chuche Korea by becoming a fortress and shield, rifles and bombs, when comrade supreme commander issued an order.

Kim Chol-chin said that they could return to the bosom of the great general after showing the prowess of young soldiers to the enemy, because they were encouraged by the deep trust and paternal affection of comrade supreme commander and they had the rock-firm faith that they would win, guided by the general.

Representatives of factory and office workers, youth and students vowed to defend the socialist homeland like an impregnable fortress and dynamically accelerate socialist construction with a rifle in one hand and a hammer or a pen in the other, keeping in their mind the rock-firm faith that they will surely win in any circumstances as General Kim Chong-il leads them.

Present at the meeting was Kim Chung-rin, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK.

Japanese Defense Agency Chief's Remarks Decried

SK2403050894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 24 Mar 94

["Indiscreet Preach of Aggression"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—Kazuo Aichi, general director of the Defence Agency of Japan, at the commencement of the "Defence Academy" a few days ago said "international contribution" is an important duty of the "self-defence forces" (SDF) and that the role of the "SDF" is increasing in the "contribution" through the United Nations. He also talked about the "responsibility" of the "SDF."

This revealed the sinister intention of the Japanese reactionaries to drive the "SDF" into overseas aggression, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

The news analyst says:

The "international contribution" of the "SDF" claimed by the Japanese reactionary ruling quarters is an excuse to justify troop dispatch overseas and the use of arms.

By "increasing role" of the "SDF" through the United Nations, aichi meant to step up its military advance and operations overseas by abusing the name of the United Nations.

The Japanese reactionaries are these days preaching the inevitability of the use of weapons and battles of the "SDF" units dispatched overseas and calling for malrevision of the "law on cooperation in UN peacekeeping operations," which confines their activities to non-military spheres, and for the "constitutionality" of "military activities under UN command" and "exercise of the right to collective self-defence." Under the cloak of "exercise of the right to collective self-defence" they intend to start military aggression in real earnest on wider areas, major zones of resources and strategic points of the world.

Japan today is the world's number two in military spendings.

What must not go unnoticed is that the Japanese reactionary ruling quarters are actively promoting Japan's nuclear armament.

The Japanese reactionaries must discard the anachronistic militarist mode of thinking and act with discretion.

Japan Papers Cited on Anti-DPRK Military Moves

SK2403103794

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 2100 GMT on 23 March carries three consecutive reports citing Japanese newspaper items on U.S. and Japanese military moves aimed at the DPRK.

The first of three reports states that "The United States is maneuvering to conduct a war exercise on the East Sea of Korea [Sea of Japan]. According to a report, the Japanese newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN dated 23 March reported that the U.S. Government is considering an independent war exercise on the East Sea of Korea. The paper reported that the United States is employing a hardline policy against our country, such as the deployment of Patriot missiles in South Korea and setting up specific plans to resume the Team Spirit joint military

exercise. The paper added that the U.S. Government is pushing ahead step by step with plans to implement a specific hardline policy."

The second item begins: "According to a report, the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN dated 23 March reported that Hajime Izumi, assistant professor of Sizuoka University, a Korean affairs expert, urged Japan to take measures to support the U.S. forces in Japan in case of emergency on the Korean peninsula." The report notes Izumi's call for an enactment of necessary laws for Japan "to effectively cope with a military conflict on the Korean peninsula." The report concludes, "This shows that if the United States provokes a new war on the Korean peninsula, Japan is scheming to actively cooperate and participate in it."

The third item reports: "According to a report, the Japanese newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN dated 23 March disclosed that the Japanese Self-Defense Air Force openly conducted a field maneuver of Patriot missiles on (Shariki) base in Aomori Prefecture on 22 March. The paper said that the missile launch pads are aimed at the northern sky. The missile field maneuver by the Self-Defense Air Force, which is conducted at a time when the United States is intensifying the military threat against our Republic, saying that it will deploy Patriot missiles to South Korea, shows that Japan is dancing to the tune of U.S. military pressure."

Japanese Reported Protesting Kim Yong-sam Visit

SK2403115494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 (KNS-KCNA)—The Japanese people are protesting Kim Yong-sam's tour of their country.

Genzo Watanabe, secretary of the Japan-South Korea Council of People's Solidarity, made a report and public figures speeches at a meeting held in Tokyo on March 17.

They pointed out that the criminal purpose of the tour of Japan by the traitor Kim Yong-sam is to strengthen the Japanese-South Korean joint step against the DPRK, promote political conspiracy regarding the past Japan's aggression on Korea and colonial rule and build new relations between Japan and South Korea.

They called upon the Japanese people to obtain a clear understanding of the essence of Kim Yong-sam's tour of Japan, strengthen solidarity with the South Korean people struggling for independence, democracy and peaceful reunification and wage a vigorous struggle in demand of a fundamental switchover of the Japan government's policy towards Korea.

Chongryon Delegation on Visit to Pyongyang

SK2403113594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—A delegation of officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) headed by Yi Chang-ku, chief of a section of the Propaganda Department of the Chongryon Central Standing Committee, flew to Pyongyang for a visit to the socialist homeland.

Li Peng's Remarks on DPRK Nuclear Issue Cited

SK2403043994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 24 Mar 94

["Pressure Will Only Make Situation on Korean Peninsula Tense"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—Chinese Premier Li Peng told Chinese and foreign reporters on March 22 that it has been China's consistent position to stand for negotiations and dialogues rather than pressure on the issue of nuclear inspection in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, XINHUA reported.

Answering a question by a reporter on China's stand if the issue is submitted to the Security Council of the United Nations, the premier said that if the method of pressure is used, it will only make things more complicated, and make the situation on the Korean peninsula tense, and that will not be good for the peace and stability of the region.

PRC Art Troupe Arrives for Friendship Festival

SK2303051994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—An art troupe of China arrived here Tuesday to participate in the 12th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

It was met at the airport by Kim Chong-ho, vice-minister of Culture and Art and vice-chairman of the organizing committee of the festival, Sin An-gang, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee, officials concerned and artistes in the city.

Cambodian Co-Defense Ministers on Visit

Kim Il-song Meets Ministers

SK2403111294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the high-level delegation of the Defence Ministry of the Royal Government of Cambodia headed by Co-Ministers of Defence General Tie Banh and General Tie Chamrat on a visit to Korea.

On hand were Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u and Cambodian Ambassador E.P. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to Korea Oum Mannorine.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Kim Il-song Receives Gift

SK2403113094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)--The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from the high-level delegation of the Defence Ministry of the Royal Government of Cambodia on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed to Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u by Cambodian Co-Ministers of Defence Tie Banh and Tie Chamrat.

Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK2403113394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, received a gift from the high-level delegation of the Defence Ministry of the Royal Government of Cambodia on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed to Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u by Cambodian Co-Ministers of Defence Tie Banh and Tie Chamrat.

Information Committee Group Departs for Laos

SK2403114494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Information Committee of the DPRK led by its Vice Chairman Yi Pong-hui left here today by train to visit Laos.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Tunisian President

SK2303105094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Zine El Abidine Ben Ali upon his reelection as president of the Republic of Tunisia.

President Kim Il-song in the message wished him greater success in his responsible work for the national unity and prosperity of the country and expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would grow stronger and develop.

Reminiscences of President Reported Abroad

SK2303102794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—Reminiscences of the great leader President Kim Il-song was carried by foreign press.

The Peruvian paper INDEPENDENCIA reported the publication of the fourth volume of Part I the anti-Japanese revolution of the reminiscences "With the Century" and introduced its content with a photo of President Kim Il-song responding to the cheers of the masses.

The Russian paper VETERAN carried the detailed gist of "The Demonstration of Unity" from the first volume of Part I the anti-Japanese revolution of the reminiscences "With the Century", the Nepalese paper MAJADUR KISSAN the full text of the title "The Kaisn Meeting" from the second volume of Part I of the reminiscences and Paekpong library published by the International Institute of the Chuche Idea the full text of the fourth volume of the reminiscences.

Meetings for expressing impressions of the reminiscences were held by the Zairean Youth Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea and the Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea of the Dar-es-Salaam Friendship Textile Mill.

Overseas Koreans Send Gifts to Kim Chong-il

SK2303102694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received more than 15,000 pieces of gifts from Koreans living in the Commonwealth of Independent States including Russia, China, Europe, Japan, America, Australia and other regions on the occasion of his birthday.

A scroll from a Korean living in Longjing City, Jilin Province, China, shows Chong-il Peak against the background of Mt. Paektu and, to the right of it, letters "Wijaesaneong" meaning that the greatness of Comrade Kim Chong-il is shedding rays all over the world, and below a tiger crouching on a rock before a pine tree representing his grit and courage and reflecting the wish for his longevity in good health.

A congratulatory poem wishing the dear leader good health and a long life came from a veteran in Russia, a "Phoenix treasure boat" made of gold and silver from a compatriot in America and rare fish from an old man in Canada.

Reception Marks 'Day of Pakistan' in Pyongyang

SK2403063194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—Shafqat Ali Cheema, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Pakistani Embassy here, hosted a reception at Pyongyang Koryo Hotel Wednesday on the day of Pakistan.

Invited to the reception were Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, Chong Ho-chol, chairman of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee

of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and chairman of the Korea-Pakistan Friendship Association, Cho Kyu-il, vice-minister of foreign affairs, Kim Chong-u, vice-chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission, Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and other officials concerned.

Diplomatic envoys of different countries here were also invited.

Speeches were made at the reception.

Guyana, Brazil Parties Denounce U.S. 'Attitude'

SK2303151094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—Political parties and organizations of Guyana and Brazil denounced the U.S. insincere attitude toward the talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States.

Fourteen political parties and organizations of Guyana including the People's Democratic Movement, the Amerindian Action Movement, the Agricultural and General Workers Union and the Guyana-Korea Friendship Association released a statement on March 7 saying that no problem could be solved in such a manner as putting pressure on one side or setting unreasonable preconditions. It stressed that the United States must come out to the talks without any precondition and fully discharge its responsibility and obligation in the solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

The October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil issued a statement on March 11 strongly urging the United States to immediately rescind the unreasonable preconditions and satisfactorily implement all the steps of simultaneous action according to the DPRK-U.S. agreed conclusions.

It also demanded that Japan and the South Korean authorities stop balking the DPRK-U.S. talks and promptly give up their nuclear arms development jeopardizing peace not only on the Korean peninsula but in Asia and the rest of the world.

African Officials Praise DPRK Socialism

SK2203151294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—Figures of Mozambique and Zimbabwe praised the advantages of the Korean-style socialism.

The general secretary of the Mozambican Parliament said on March 11:

Socialism of Korea is the most advantageous one in the world.

It is a socialism that enables all the people to be well off evenly.

In Korea all people become true masters of the country and are firmly united behind the party and the leader.

The Korean-style socialism under the guidance of the great President Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is a model and centre of world socialism.

Joseph Macheka, a member of Parliament of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in a statement March 5 said now the Korean people, united in one mind around the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, are successfully building the Korean-style socialism, smashing the heinous moves of the imperialists to isolate and stifle the DPRK.

He stressed that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has developed the Workers' Party of Korea into the most authoritative and dignified party, the most experienced and tested party in the world and strengthened the unity and cohesion of the party behind the leader and made it invincible.

The dear leader has thoroughly implemented the line of building an independent national economy set forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and thus made the Republic a socialist power not affected by a world-wide economic fluctuation, and built the Korean People's Army into invincible Armed Forces capable of coping with a modern warfare by training the whole Army into an army of cadres and modernizing it with accelerated pace, he said.

He said the present of socialist Korea making a long drive with every passing day and a brighter [word indistinct] the Republic are ascribable to the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Newspaper Observes Independence Day of Namibia

SK2203110094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON dedicates a by-lined article to the independence of Namibia.

The article says:

Since the proclamation of the Republic the Namibian people have striven to build a new life, valiantly overcoming trials and difficulties that cropped up in their way.

Pursuing a non-aligned foreign policy, the Namibian Government is strengthening relations with many countries of the world and member states of the organization of African unity and fighting against imperialism and racism.

The Korean and the Namibian people established friendly bonds on the road of the common struggle for independence against imperialism.

Especially, the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries have further developed since

the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level on March 22, 1990.

Believing that the relations between the two peoples will grow stronger and develop in different fields on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the Korean people wish the Namibian people greater success in their strivings for the development and prosperity of the country.

Kim Chong-il Sends Birthday Table to Curator

SK2403114894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, sent a sixtieth birthday table to Yi Tu-ho, a branch curator of the Fatherland Liberation War Museum.

Born into the family of a day labourer before the liberation of the country, Yi could enjoy a true human life and graduate a university in the liberated homeland. He was honored with a commendation of the great leader President Kim Il-song, order of national flag first class and many other state decorations for his devoted services in dealing with revolutionary historical relics.

Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a centenary birthday table to An Sang-o, an ordinary woman residing in the neighbourhood unit No.9 of Sungri-tong No.3, Nakrang District, Pyongyang.

Born into a poor tenant farmer's family on the turu inlet in Pyongyang, she devoted her all to defending the system which gave her happiness during the fatherland liberation war and honestly worked for the country in the period of the socialist construction, too. Her family of 49, including sons, darghters, grandsons and great grandsons, is leading a happy life under the loving care of the socialist system.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Plastics Workers

SK2303061894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the officials and employees of the Pang Ho-nim Institute and the Pyongyang general weaving equipment plant for their manufacture of new high-class plastic goods.

Receiving the thanks, the employees of the units are making innovations in developing the nation's science and technology and producing light industrial goods needed for people's life.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Various Units

SK2403060094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, sent thanks to the Soryong No. 2 fish shop and the residents in Soryong-tong No. 2, Taedonggang district, Pyongyang municipality, who had fully displayed the beautiful tradition of unity between the army and people.

The shop employees and residents have distinguished themselves in aiding People's Army soldiers for years.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also sent thanks to the workers and technicians of the Kumsong general tractor plant and the Sungni general motor works who had set examples in the production of tractors and lorries and, to different units including the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and the Tokchon City Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which had contributed to the production of tractors and lorries.

KCNA Notes Increase in Railway Freight Tonnage

SK2403062394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—Railway workers in the DPRK keep effecting innovations.

The general bureaux of railways carried hundreds of thousands more tons of freight than their plan in recent one month. The transport turnover of the general bureau of Western railways was 207,400 tons more than the assignment in the period.

The general bureau of Eastern railways and the Kaechon general bureau of railways hauled freight 20 to 30 percent more than the rated traction tonnage by scrupulously organizing and commanding transport and reducing the stoppage time of wagons.

Haeju Chongnyon, Unpit, Paechon and many other railway stations have hit their first-quarter assignments ahead of schedule.

South Korea

DRRK Official on Possibility of Inspections

SK2403055194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0539 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 (YONHAP)—North Korea is willing to reopen talks with the United States if the latter offers to suspend joint military exercises with South Korea and tries to solve the nuclear problem through dialogue, a Pyongyang official at the United Nations was quoted as saying Wednesday.

KYODO NEWS SERVICE reported from New York that the North Korean official indicated his government would allow additional inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) if the United States came to the negotiating table.

The official offered neither a confirmation nor a denial when asked if North Korea and the United States had been in contact since the nuclear issue was referred to the UN Security Council.

"No comment," he was quoted as saying.

Washington canceled its scheduled March 21 high-level talks with Pyongyang after the Stalinist state refused to allow full nuclear inspections by the IAEA.

The agency has referred the matter to the Security Council, which is preparing a resolution on North Korea for next week. Seoul and Washington, meanwhile, are seriously considering resumption of their joint military exercises "Team Spirit" this year.

The North Korean official expressed high hopes on the stance of Beijing, which has openly declared its opposition to any harsh action against Pyongyang such as sanctions.

"We have maintained friendly relations for over 40 years since the Korean war," KYODO quoted him as saying. "We will continue to strengthen these relations."

Further on 'Authority's Remarks

SK2403110494 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1015 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry will visit the ROK next month in connection with the North Korean nuclear issue. Also, the situation on the Korean peninsula has been further strained. Under these circumstances, a North Korean authority to the United Nations suddenly showed the position today that it would resume negotiations with the United States. As a result, changes in the North Korean attitude regarding the North Korean nuclear issue newly attract our attention. We have news from reporter Yi Chong-ok at the desk international affairs.

[Begin Yi recording] A relevant authority of the North Korean mission to the United Nations said today that North Korea is willing to resume negotiations—which are suspended at present—with the United States if the ROK-U.S. joint military exercise is suspended and if the United States confirms to North Korea that it will resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula through dialogue.

Japan's KYODO NEWS AGENCY reported: The North Korean authority expects negotiations with the United States to be resumed. Also, it reported that the authority said that North Korea would accept the additional inspections demanded by the International Atomic Energy Agency when the U.S.-North Korean high-level talks are held.

The news agency reported: Such remarks by the North Korean authority seem to show that North Korea is intending to avoid the strong steps, including economic sanctions, by continuing dialogue with the United States.

Also, Japan's SISA NEWS AGENCY reported that the United States had decided to immediately send U.S. Secretary of Defense Perry to the ROK and Japan on 17 April to discuss the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. [End recording]

IAEA Spokesman on DPRK's Building Reactors

SK2303235394 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[AP, YONHAP report from Vienna]

[Text] International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Spokesman David Kyd disclosed on 23 March that it seems that North Korea will complete the construction of its second nuclear reactor within this year. Spokesman Kyd said that North Korea is building its second nuclear reactor in Yongbyon. The 50 megawatt nuclear reactor is scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

He said that North Korea is currently building a third nuclear reactor in Taechon, which is even more secluded than Yongbyon, and that the 200-megawatt reactor will begin operations early in 1996.

He pointed out, however, that the practical issue regarding North Korea's plan for nuclear development is how North Korea dealt with the nuclear fuel it extracted from the small five-megawatt nuclear reactor which has been in operation since 1987.

IAEA Director Speaks at 24 Mar UN Session

SK2303234294 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Report by Cha Man-eun, from Vienna]

[Text] International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Director General Hans Blix will participate in the unofficial UN Security Council [UNSC] on the afternoon of 24 March to give an oral report on the results of North Korea's inspection and on the details of how the IAEA Board of Governors came to adopt a resolution against North Korea.

At the meeting, Director General Hans Blix will express deep regret over the fact that North Korea's nuclear issue has fallen into a deadlocked situation due to North Korea's uncooperative measures and will emphasize that strong measures at the UN Security Council level are unavoidable. The IAEA will refrain from taking independent action regarding future inspections on North Korea, but will act upon the UNSC's countermeasures.

DPRK's Troop Mobilization Capability Discussed

SK2403081694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Beijing, March 24 (YONHAP)—North Korea can mobilize five million troops in 12 hours if war breaks out, a Chinese military magazine said.

In its March issue, the XIANDAI BINGQI (MODERN ARMS) magazine said the North Korean People's Army

has 115,000 security and border troops and some three million Red Guards comprised of workers and peasants, in addition to the 1.1 million-strong regular Army.

The North Korean naval fleet includes 14 Suzhou-class guided missile fast boats, each equipped with two SSN2 ship-to-ship missile launchers, 16 Shaoxing-class guided missile fast boats, each armed with one SSN2 ship-to-ship missile launcher, and six Hainan-class patrol boats having one anti-submarine rocket launcher apiece, it said, suggesting that the boats are of Chinese make.

North Korea's Army and air force are also armed with the latest ground-to-ground and ground-to-air missiles, the magazine reported. "In 1992, North Korea spent 6 billion U.S. dollars, or 30 percent of its gross national product, for defense buildup."

As for the command system of the North Korean People's Army, it said the supreme command post is the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party. The Ministry of People's Armed Forces is under the control of the Central People's Committee and the chief of general staff is controlled directly by the People's Armed Forces minister.

Under the chief of the general staff are the artillery, mechanized forces, navy and air force commanders.

U.S.-Seoul 'Strategic Concept' on DPRK Noted

SK2403122694 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 24 Mar 94 p 2

[Article by reporter Kim Chun-pom: "Scenario for the Five-Stage Punishment for North Korea's Provocation"]

[Text] In answering a question at the National Assembly National Defense Committee on 23 March, ROK Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae said: "The ROK Government has mapped out a strategic concept in which if North Korea perpetrates a provocation in the five northwestern islands or specific areas [tukchong chiyok], the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces or the ROK Armed Forces alone will offer powerful punitive retaliation [kangnyokhan ungjingbobok] and link this to an opportunity to wage a war to achieve reunification [tongiljonyok suhaengui kihoero yongyesikinda] depending on the state of the provocation."

Minister Yi made these remarks to stress that the ROK and the United States are all prepared for any emergency and are confident that they can meet any provocation of the North and to give a powerful warning to North Korea.

This is the first declaration that even though the government adheres to the principle of peaceful reunification, it has a plan not only to defend ourselves but to pursue even reunification with armed forces [muryoktongilgagi mirobuchiil] depending on the state of the provocation.

This strategic concept stated by Minister Yi is based on a strategy of punitive retaliation contained in the "ROK-U.S. Combined Operations Plan (OP 5027). That is, this is a five-stage strategic concept in which if North Korea launches a preemptive attack, the government will not merely deter the enemy but conquer Pyongyang, isolate the North Korean regime, and enter into the stage of North-South reunification.

North Korea has deployed 8,400 long-range cannon and 2,400 multi-warheaded missiles within 100 km of the DMZ at present.

It reportedly has developed or is developing "Taepodong-1 and -2" missiles, in addition to the Nodong-1 and -2 and the Scud ground-to- ground missiles.

In particular, it has hidden in underground tunnels aircraft for transporting commando units to infiltrate into the rear area when it launches a southward invasion and has beefed up the antiair batteries in Yongbyon, where there are nuclear reactors, from five to 47.

In preparation against this, the United States has recently deployed five of the latest radar tracking devices and put areas north of the DMZ under comprehensive 24-hour surveillance and even mapped out a plan to attack those batteries in an emergency.

The five-stage ROK-U.S. combined operations plan goes like this: In the prewar stage (first stage), if the ROK and the United States detect dangerous signs from North Korea, they will immediately call in the rapid deterrent forces (FDO).

At that time, "Defcon (Defense Condition) 3" will be issued, and the Armed Forces will assume a combat ready posture [jontu chunbi taese].

This is because Seoul is a mere 40 km away from the DMZ and we have a mere 24- to 76-hour warning time for a North Korean attack.

Then, North Korea will bomb frontline units in a concentrated manner and send commando units to harass the rear of Seoul. As a result, major roads will be crowded with refugees, who will serve as a decisive obstacle to the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces' northward movements.

This is a second-stage situation. At that time, North Korea will infiltrate ground forces deployed along the DMZ into the South and attack Seoul in a concentrated manner by using Scud and Nodong-1 and -2 missiles.

In response, the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces will attack the central area of North Korea, advancing infantry units, and fighter planes by using their superior air fire power and Mistral, Hawk, and Nike missiles and intercept incoming missiles by using Patriot missiles.

This means that the defensive strategic concept which had been effective up until the mid-seventies and in which the ROK would launch a counterattack after abandoning Seoul has been replaced by a new concept in which the ROK would "repel North Korea north of Seoul."

At around this time, the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Carl Vinson of the 7th U.S. Fleet will be deployed to the East Sea [Sea of Japan] and strike the enemy's rear area in a concentrated manner.

At that time, AWACS early-warning planes and antisubmarine patrol planes (P-3C) will fly through the skies over the Korean peninsula, conduct aerial surveillance not only over North Korea, but also over areas of Russia and China, detect infiltrating aircraft and submarines in advance, and instruct the ground on shooting them down.

In the third stage, the armed forces will annihilate the major combat forces of North Korea, break through the DMZ, conduct large-scale landing operations, and advance northward.

At that time, the ROK and the United States will expand the frontline toward the Chongchon River, north of Pyongyang.

However, in this strategic concept, the ROK and the United States left the issue of whether they will advance toward the Yalu River at this stage for further deliberations depending on the situation.

No decision has been made on whether the 400,000 U.S. troops which will be reinforced with troops from the U.S. mainland will participate in the northward advance. The next stage is one of isolation. The forces will completely isolate Pyongyang from the rest of North Korea and establish a military rule, which includes civilian controls [chumintongjedung kunsatongchirul silsihanda].

The final, fifth stage will be a postwar phase. At this stage, the ROK will take the initiative to achieve reunification on the Korean peninsula.

President Kim's Visit to Japan Previewed

SK2403025294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0123 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam's state visit to Japan on Thursday will spur bilateral military cooperation, with Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae traveling to Tokyo late next month and South Korea's Navy calling at a Japanese port within the year, the SANKEI SHIMBUN reported in a Seoul-datelined story on Thursday.

Quoting military sources in Seoul, the Japanese newspaper said the two countries would shortly agree to exchange flight information to prevent accidents involving military planes as the first step of cooperation.

South Korea is interested in defense exchanges and cooperation with Japan because its plans to promote military links with China and Russia have not met expectations since the establishment of diplomatic ties under former President No Tae-u, it observed.

Influenced by President Kim's Japan policy calling for future-oriented relations, the South Korean military has begun showing a keen interest in that country, it added.

Defense Minister Yi was to accompany President Kim to Japan in late March but has decided to go late next month for in-depth talks with Japanese defense leaders on military cooperation, the report said.

It is highly likely that a South Korean naval fleet will call at a Japanese port this year, entailing a return call by the Japanese at a South Korean port, it quoted a Seoul military source as saying.

At present, the two countries conduct two military personnel exchange programs a year covering mutual visits by army, navy, air force and joint chiefs of staff personnel.

President Kim Gives Address Before Departing

SK2403015594 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0019 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Address by President Kim Yong-sam prior to departing for official visits to Japan and China at Seoul Airport—live]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen: It is raining now to bless our future. I am making official visits to Japan and China for a week beginning today in my capacity as a state guest for the first time since I took office as president. At a news conference with reporters earlier this year, I said that I would not hesitate in going anywhere in the world to be a salesperson for our national interests. My visits to Japan and China this time are to put such will into practice. For the past year since I took on the presidency, I have met over 20 heads of state, and found them all to share one common factor—that they all were pursuing their respective national interests.

Our closest neighbors historically and geographically, Japan and China, are our partners in leading the Asia-Pacific era. I will reconfirm this on this visit. At the same time, I will relay the impressive efforts during the past year of our fellow countrymen for reforms and for building a new state, to the people of these two countries.

The globalization trend is increasing in the international community daily. Distances between countries are shrinking, and relations of mutual reliance are deepening. In particular, a new world trade order of indefinite competition has emerged in the wake of the Uruguay Round. In order for the ROK, China, and Japan to mutually enjoy political stability and economic prosperity in such an era of rapid change, it is very important for close cooperation to take place.

Japan and China are our second and third largest trade partners. Most of our foreign investment has been in China. Amid such a trend in the world economy, cooperation is ever increasing among the three countries, all with different industrial structures and developing rates. Mutually complementary cooperation and partnership will enable all three countries to strengthen each's competitiveness.

Fellow countrymen:

During my visit, I will hold deep consultations with Japan and China on how the three countries can cooperate for Asia's security and peace. In particular, the North Korean nuclear issue is not only a grave issue for us, but is also closely related to the security of Northeast Asia and world peace. North Korea has refused to sincerely receive the inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and has even unilaterally broken off the North-South dialogue, thus creating a crisis on the Korean peninsula. It even threatens our people with severe words that state that it is ready for war.

We will resolutely defeat any kind of provocation by North Korea with the firm security cooperative system of the ROK and the United States. During the security-related ministers' meeting on 21 March which I chaired, I reconfirmed our flawless security posture and consolidated a firm will to deal with whatever situation we may come to face. U.S. President Clinton sent me a personal letter promising that the United States will sincerely abide by its security pledge toward the ROK, whatever the situation. We will by no means yield to North Korea's threats. We will keep the doors open so that dialogue can begin as soon as they change their attitude.

I will ask for Japan and China's cooperation during my visit to the two countries to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue and call for North Korea's reform and openness, as it is now isolated internationally. The three countries of the ROK, China, and Japan each has its share of work in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue.

I intend to explain to the leaders of the two countries that true reconciliation and peace are not only crucial to the prosperity of East Asia but also to the Asian-Pacific region, and ask for their cooperation.

Fellow countrymen: During my visit to Japan, I am scheduled to meet Emperor Akihito and hold two summits with Prime Minister Hosokawa. I will also make a speech before the Diet and reveal how I envision ROK-Japanese relations in the 21st century. In addition, I will meet the leaders of Japan's political and economic circles to exchange views on worthwhile mutual exchanges. At Waseda University, I will talk about the future role of youth in the ROK and Japan.

As for the summit with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, since I held exclusive talks with him in Seattle last year, this will be our second summit meeting. In the upcoming summit, we will contemplate our relations which have been maintained for a long time. I am also scheduled to meet Premier Li Peng.

I will observe economic developments in Shanghai and Tianjin and will visit the site of our former provisional government in Shanghai.

I also intend to convey the warm greetings of our people to fellow countrymen living in Japan and China.

Fellow countrymen:

The ROK is no longer on the periphery of the earth. Having opened an era of civilian government and being third in economic rank in the world [segye chesamwiui kyongjeryog], the ROK is emerging as a core country in the 21st century. The ROK is actively participating in and contributing to setting up a new order in the Pacific era. This is not just our opinion but how the world sees us.

Let us all have pride and a sense of mission! Let us all realize our ambition with reforms and internationalization! Let us all turn this country into a country that contributes to creating a new civilization.

Even though I briefly depart, fellow countrymen, I will remain with you always.

Fellow countrymen, I will return soon.

Leaves for Japan, PRC Visits

OW2403010894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0053 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 24 KYODO—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam left Seoul on Thursday [24 February] for a weeklong trip to Japan and China to seek support for last-ditch efforts to defuse the crisis over North Korea's alleged nuclear weapons program.

Kim's trip, his first state visit to the two countries since taking office in February 1993, was originally designed to strengthen South Korea's economic ties with its nearest neighbors.

Kim told reporters Tuesday he hopes his visit will serve as a turning point in resolving the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula.

He said besides in-depth discussion of the North Korean problem, bilateral economic cooperation and closer trade ties will top his agenda in talks with Japanese and Chinese leaders.

Kim is scheduled to hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Thursday and Friday, and with Chinese President Jiang Zemin next Monday. He will return to Seoul on Wednesday.

Kim is being accompanied by his wife Soo Myong-sun and three cabinet ministers.

In a departure ceremony at Seoul airport, Kim said he will try to obtain support from Japan and China to resolve the nuclear issue and also bring North Korea around to reform and openness.

"I will explain to the two leaders of Japan and China that preserving reconciliation and peace on the Korean peninsula is important to ensuring stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region as well as in Northeast Asia," Kim said.

He said North Korea has created confrontation on the Korean peninsula by failing to allow unhindered inspections of its nuclear facilities and make progress in inter-Korean dialogue.

"While keeping the channel of dialogue open, South Korea, with firm security commitment of the United States, is also fully determined to fight against any possible provocation by North Korea," he said.

Cabinet Decides To Strengthen Public Security

SK2403071494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—The government has decided to strengthen public security and its anti-crime posture in preparation for any emergencies that might arise while President Kim Yong-sam is visiting Japan and China.

The government held a public security-related ministers' meeting on Thursday and decided to tighten overall security so that the president can conclude his tour successfully without worrying about the domestic situation.

Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang presided over the meeting, attended by nine ministers including Home Minister Choe Hyong-u, Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui and Communications Minister Yun Tong-yun.

The government will be on guard against possible terrorist attacks on public office buildings and foreign missions while taking steps to beef up national security.

It will also strive to prevent large-scale calamities including forest fires and traffic accidents.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yi will preside over a security-related ministers' meeting on Friday to check movements by the North Korean forces and discuss ways to ensure security during President Kim's absence.

Ministry Reports Beef Exports to U.S. Allowed

SK2403115094 Seoul YONHAP in English 1103 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—Exports of Korean beef and its products to the United States have been made possible beginning April 1, a Foreign Ministry official said on Thursday.

He said that at a Korea-U.S. trade meeting held at the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday, the United States agreed to exclude Korea from a cattle epidemic area, paving the way for the exports of Korean beef to the United States.

Also at Wednesday's meeting, the United States protested over Korea's recent discarding of a large amount of American sausages for the expiration of their marketing period.

According to the official, a U.S. delegate said it was unreasonable for Korea to sharply shorten sausages' tolerable marketing period from 90 days to 30 days and discard imported American sausages based thereon.

The United States further asked Korea to allow the imports of the heads of codfish. But, Korea said it cannot at least until due steps are taken to ensure the sanitary handling of codfish heads which are used in the United States only as a livestock feed material, the official said.

Agricultural Cooperative Group Elects President

SK2403065794 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Mar 94 p 8

[Text] Won Choi-hui was elected chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) for a four-year term yesterday.

Won, 56, took over the chairmanship of the NACF by earning 875 of the 1,386 votes cast directly by regional cooperatives heads at the NACF auditorium.

Won, an executive vice president of the NACF, competed with two other candidates, Chong Ki-on and Chong Tae-kun, who garnered 162 and 345 votes, respectively.

The new NACF head assumes the chairmanship today as the second NACF to be selected chosen directly by federation deputies.

Won succeeds Han Ho-soo, who is now under arrest on charges of embezzlement. Han resigned from the post last Saturday.

"I will push ahead with drastic reforms to transform the NACF into a "genuine" body which will serve farmers and will develop new projects," the new chairman said in a news conference shortly after the election.

Burma

Border Inspection Delegation Leaves for PRC

BK2303151994 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1300 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] A seven-member Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Navy Captain Tun Aung, director general of the Land Survey Department of the Ministry of Forestry, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air this afternoon to attend the third meeting of the Joint Inspection Committee for the second Myanmar-Chinese Joint Boundary Inspection to be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Mine Injures Villager in Kyaikto

BK2303151894 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1300 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Members of the armed organizations in the jungle have been laying mines on railway lines, roads, and sidewalks with the intent to destroy them and to kill and maim the people who want to live peacefully. They are also hindering and disturbing smooth and secure transportation as well as local tranquility.

At about 1600 on 2 March, Maung Tar Htay, the 19-year-old son of U Aye Myint Lwin of the village of Kyaukpya, Kyaikto Township, stepped on an antipersonnel mine laid by members of the Karen armed organization in the jungle while he was returning to Kyaukpya from the fields. He lost his toes in the accident. The responsible personnel took him to Kyaikto Hospital for treatment.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

SRV's Do Muoi Arrives for Official Visit

BK2403080094 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Vietnam's political leader, Do Muoi, arrived in Kuala Lumpur today for a four-day official visit aimed at intensifying bilateral and economic relations between Kuala Lumpur and Hanoi. The 77-year old Secretary General of Vietnam's Communist Party was met on arrival at the airport by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Accompanied by a 33-member delegation including politicians, businessmen, and journalists, Do Moui is scheduled to meet Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir for talks on bilateral, regional, and international issues in the afternoon.

During his stay here he will attend a briefing at the Petronas [National Petroleum Corporation] headquarters and tour refineries in Melaka. He will also visit the Proton automobile plant in Shah Alam, near Kuala Lumpur.

Mahathir on Green Peace and Jewish Issues

BK2403012494 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed says the industrialized countries should not obstruct any effort to impose a total ban on the dumping of industrial waste in Third World countries, particularly Asia. The prime minister said that those countries should in fact take steps to end the export of industrial waste to developing countries. He felt that industrial waste should not be exported to developing countries because [words indistinct].

He told reporters this after visiting the Kuala Lumpur Tower project at Bukit Nanas in Kuala Lumpur. Dr. Mahathir was asked to comment on the claim by Green Peace, an environmental protection group, that seven industrialized countries oppose the efforts to impose a total ban on the export of industrial waste to Third World countries. The countries are Australia, Britain, Canada, Germany, Holland, Japan, and the United States. When he was asked to comment on the protests by international organizations against Malaysia's ban on the Oscar-winning movie Schindler's List, he said the people outside the country should not object to the decision because it was Malaysia's right to ban any film in the country. On a Jewish organization's claim that the film was banned because he was anti-Semitic, Dr. Mahathir said he was not anti-Semitic but he was anti-Zionist expansionism and the conquest of Arab territory by the (?Jews).

Foreign Minister on APEC, EAEC, UK Press

BK2403102194 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 20 Mar 94 p 18

["Excerpts" of interview with Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi by STRAITS TIMES correspondent Ismail Kassim in Kuala Lumpur, date not given]

[Text] On the pluses and minuses of Malaysia's pro-active foreign policy:

[Badawi] To be credible, we have to conduct our policy with integrity and honesty. If we are not popular as a result of that, it is just a consequence. Whatever action we take is not meant to make us popular.

The bottomline is that it's a plus for us...

But we don't go round on the basis of counting pluses and minuses. From my assessment, more people appreciated and approved of our actions than disapproved.

On the impact of such an approach on neighbours and friends:

[Badawi] We cannot pursue a policy purely on the basis of what our friends want us to do. As an independent and sovereign nation, we have the right to voice our views in any international forum and we have expressed them

loud and clear. But we do not do it on the basis of wanting to compete with others.

We are also very responsive to suggestions from other leaders. We have never held back our support for any good idea that came from anybody...

On Malaysia being the odd-man-out in ASEAN over the future of APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation], a 17-member grouping:

[Badawi] I don't think so. If I understand (Indonesian Foreign Minister) Ali Alatas, I don't think Indonesia is ready for a more formal structure. I have been assured that Singapore too does not want anything big.

If we are not careful, the development of APEC could lead to the diminution of sub-regional cooperation. That's why Malaysia has been speaking up—because we want to make sure that ASEAN is not swallowed. We do not want ASEAN to lose its identity and its effectiveness.

We have taken a pro-ASEAN position. We want to preserve and promote ASEAN because we value ASEAN cooperation which has proven very successful.

We do not reject APEC. We will participate in its meeting and we will implement whatever projects we are involved in. But we do not believe APEC should be structured with a big secretariat like a mini-United Nations.

On the attendance of Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim at the APEC finance ministers meeting this week, and Dr. Mahathir's likely presence at the Jakarta APEC summit later this year:

[Badawi] We have been assured that it is (the finance ministers meeting) going to be a one-off meeting, not an annual affair. That's why Datuk Anwar went in his capacity as finance minister, not as the deputy premier.

Dr. Mahathir is also likely to go to Jakarta. Whatever happens after that, we don't know.

My fear is that the APEC summit might be an annual event. I think there will be many countries anxious to hold this kind of gathering. But our position remains unchanged.

In ASEAN, we respect our differences over this issue. It has not divided us yet and there's still continuing cooperation. On some pressing issues, we can still reach consensus.

But we are actually worried of what may happen in the future.

On reports that American officials are urging Japanese and Koreans privately not to join the EAEC [East Asian Economic Caucus] despite the Clinton administration dropping its opposition to the caucus which excludes the United States:

[Badawi] I don't want to use harsh words such as hypocrisy. But this is the kind of double-game diplomacy that we don't want. One plays at the net, the other lobbying from the backline.

I will go by what Warren Christopher said in Singapore in his official capacity not as a private person.

(During the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Singapore last July, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher declared that "the United States now views the development of the EAEC with interest and without hostility, and hopes that the EAEC would enhance a more open trading system".)

It was not an off-the-cuff remark he made in some corner of the world in response to a reporter's question. So we have to hold on to his words.

We hope that the first meeting of EAEC at an appropriate level can be held by the end of this year.

On the repercussions of the current row with Britain which began after the London SUNDAY TIMES newspaper began implying that Malaysian government leaders, including Dr. Mahathir, were corrupt:

[Badawi] We are monitoring it very closely. At the moment, nothing adverse yet.

On our part, we have no fear in dealing with any government which speaks on what it believes in. I don't think other countries have any problem with us. It's a not a minus point for Malaysia to stand up for its beliefs. After all, we are not tearing up any contract that has been signed.

Every issue will be resolved eventually. I am in no position to predict when this can happen. See what happened with Australia. All the noises and then it all ended amicably.

Neither Malaysia nor Britain wants to do anything to worsen the situation. On his first official visit to Singapore from tomorrow and bilateral relations:

[Badawi] Well, we are so close, we don't normally make state visits. I don't think [former prime minister] Tun Razak or Tun Hussein made any official visit to Singapore. Likewise, Lee Kuan Yew and Goh Chok Tong too have never made an official visit to Malaysia.

As to my trip, it is like dropping into a neighbour's semi-detached house for tea. I have been going in and out and passing through all the time, so Kan Seng (former Singapore Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng, who is now in Home Affairs) suggested that I drop in for a chat.

There isn't anything intimidating about the visit. I am not going to talk about the dispute over Pulau Batu Putih (Pedra Branca).

The meeting of officials to resolve it has been going on. They have their own schedule. I am not going to interfere.

As to other problems, I can't think of any.

Cambodia

Officials Meet Surin, Discuss Refugees

BK2403041494 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Mar 94 p 11

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan has emphasised to senior Cambodian officials here that there is no need to call on international organisations to help Cambodians who fled into Thailand recently.

Mr Surin met Minister of State for National Rehabilitation Keat Chhon and Under-Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs Ung Sean and Pok Marina shortly after arriving here for a three-day visit.

Mr Surin did not meet Foreign Minister Norodom Sirivut yesterday as planned because the prince had left suddenly for Beijing on Tuesday to brief King Norodom Sihanouk on the situation in Pailin, a diplomatic source said.

But Prince Sirivut is expected back in Phnom Penh today and the two may still meet here before the prince pays a visit to Bangkok next week.

The Khmer Rouge yesterday said Pailin remained under their control.

Mr Surin stressed to those he did meet here yesterday that the refugee situation at the Thai-Cambodian border is now under control.

He maintained there is no need to call for international help since Cambodia now has a government that could look after its own people.

Mr Surin on Tuesday inspected the border village of Ban Pakkad where an estimated 25,000 Cambodians fleeing from fighting in nearby Pailin have sought refuge.

Mr Surin reiterated Thailand's readiness to discuss with the Cambodian Government overlapping claims in the Gulf of Thailand before launching any joint development projects.

"If they are ready to talk, we're ready. It would be good if (they) have a delegation to Bangkok as quickly as possibly to begin the discussion," he said.

"The same message will be given to Prince Sirivut when he visits Bangkok on Monday," Mr Surin said.

Mr Surin said he noted during yesterday's discussions that Thailand would like to discuss fishery issues in a separate forum.

He also requested an extension of the March 31 deadline set for the transport of felled logs and mining equipment from Cambodia to Thailand.

"Because of the fighting, the removal is very difficult. We hope Cambodia will reconsider the deadline and hope the issue will be discussed when Prince Sirivut comes to Thailand," Mr Surin said.

Refugee Repatriation Being Negotiated

BK2403072494 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Second Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia has informed Mrs. Anne Bruneliere, UNICEF representative in Cambodia, that the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] has asked UNICEF to join hands with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to help maintain the rights and well-being of the children and people forced by the Khmer Rouge into Thailand. This follows the capture of the Pailin and other areas of the group by government forces. Samdech Hun Sen disclosed that the RGC was in the process of negotiating for the repatriation of the Cambodian refugees with the Thai side.

On the children's general welfare, the second prime minister has asked UNICEF to continue giving children and women health education through radio and television as well as other forms of mass media and contact with women's associations existing in every locality.

Samdech Hun Sen also said that their majesties the king and queen planned to grant all orphans in a ceremony to show the enhancement of the children's value and to foster the upkeep of their rights and welfare.

In her reply, Mrs. Anne Bruneliere pledged that UNICEF would strive to meet the RGC's request to save children from misery. She also disclosed that if security was sufficiently insured, UNICEF would travel to Pailin to help the children there in its capacity as an UN agency.

Hun Sen Chairs Meeting To Discuss Pailin Victory

BK2303154394 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1500 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Communique of the office of the government spokesman—read by announcer]

[Text] A joint ministerial meeting was held at 0900 on the morning of 23 March at the Cabinet's office chaired by Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC].

The joint ministerial meeting focused on strengthening the victory won by the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] in seizing control of Pailin at 1800 on 19 March. The meeting also outlined a number of urgent principles, targets, and measures to control Pailin, which had been under the Khmer Rouge since the end of 1989. The Khmer Rouge had used this area as their autonomous zone and center for carrying out illegal economic exploitation to continue the war, carrying on the massacre, and creating insecurity for the Cambodian people throughout the country. In this connection:

1. The meeting discussed, examined, and determing a number of measures to cope with the resettlement of the people who will settle in the Pailin area and provide them with security;

2. The meeting reiterated the RGC's determination to rearrange the Pailin area by sending the people to settle there. The government also plans to develop this area.

3. The meeting decided in principle to set up measures to bring back the Cambodian people who had fled the Kingdom of Thailand when the KRAF launched its attack to drive the Khmer Rouge out of Pailin.

4. The meeting believed that the various foreign businessmen and companies which formerly dealt in gems and logs with the Khmer Rouge would definitely stop having contacts with the Khmer Rouge. At the same time, the RGC solemnly declared its recognition of all the agreements. [sentence as heard] The meeting ended at 1030 in a spirit of unity and (?responsibility).

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 23 March 1994

Daily Urges Government To Outlaw Khmer Rouge

BK2403065194 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 23 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Commentary by Seiha: "When Pailin Is Captured"]

[Text] Pailin fell into the hands of the royal government at 1800 on 19 March. No one in Phnom Penh could hear the clandestine Khmer Rouge radio transmission anymore. However, most people believe that "the Khmer Rouge problem is not over yet."

According to a preliminary report, only 22 Khmer Rouge soldiers have been shot dead in fighting at Bar Ya Kha, mid-way between Pailin town and the Thai border. Where then have the many other Khmer Rouge troops been hiding?

The loss of Pailin certainly puts an end to the considerable inflow of revenue for the Khmer Rouge. But it does not mean that the Khmer Rouge have been economically strangled. The Khmer Rouge still possess several hundred million dollars in stocks abroad, especially in Thailand, and they also hold large amounts of shares in various Thai companies.

Therefore, the remaining Khmer Rouge troops of about 9,000 and their economic assets will enable them to carry on their activities, and whenever the forces of the royal government lapse, the Khmer Rouge will strike back.

Nevertheless, the capture of Pailin by the royal government forces is a big blow to the Khmer Rouge. It will force them to get out of the trenches and return to the negotiating table. Foreign analysts have said that if negotiations are still deadlocked the negotiations are still deadlocked up to this point, the royal government must be prepared to be immersed in a general guerrilla warfare with the Khmer Rouge. If this were the case, the Khmer Rouge would become the most urgent problem for the royal government to solve.

If this were the case, the royal government should immediately declare the Khmer Rouge outlaws. Then, all the assets of the Khmer Rouge would also be outlawed and all countries would have the obligation to return these assets to the legal government as in the case of the United States, which has agreed to return the amassed fortune of Marshal Lon back to the royal government. Only then will the Khmer Rouge be truly strangled.

Paper Cautions FUNCINPEC'S Strategy

BK2403044494 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 24 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "FUNCINPEC is Thirteen Years Old"]

[Text] The FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party marked its 13th anniversary on 21 March by emphasizing that its victory in the May 1993 elections is a historic achievement.

In fact, FUNCINPEC is not the most powerful party of the tripartite coalition government, despite its speedy expansion within a short period of time prior to the polls. However, this quantitative growth has brought about many great difficulties for the party to iron out.

On top of these problems, FUNCINPEC now faces scores of diverse tendencies among its members. Analysts believe that the tendency to regard the alliance between the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the FUNCINPEC Party as a political ploy is a dangerous way of thinking. Of late, the CPP seems to have shown its utmost apprehension over this tendency; it has become more vigilant than ever before.

Analysts maintain that there are indications now that this alliance is facing problems and this is probably explained by a series of secret visits to Beijing made by the two party leaders recently.

Nevertheless, without talking about the CPP accusations during the election last year, the FUNCINPEC Party's inability to win a majority in the polls demands that it makes further all-out efforts in the second legislative election to be held in the next few years, though election results are unpredictable. The best way for the FUNCINPEC Party is that it should do its utmost to bring different government plans and programs to success. It is not wise at all for the party to strive to knock down the CPP, its political partner.

Indonesia

North Korea Pleased With Country's Support

BK2303145094 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1337 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 23 (ANTARA)—The North Korean Government expressed gratitude to Indonesia for its positive stand regarding its row on nuclear issue with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"We express gratitude to the Indonesian Government whose positive attitude towards our stand on the nuclear issue gives us some support," North Korean Ambassador to Indonesia Han Pong-ha said at a press conference here on Wednesday.

Han was responding to President Suharto's recent statement urging North Korea's conflict with IAEA, particugarly the United States, to be settled in a peaceful way.

According to the North Korean ambassador, Indonesia, being the chairman of the Non-aligned Movement, has shown encouragement in defending the interests of developing countries.

He appreciated Indonesia's opposition towards IAEA's plan to bring the North Korean nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council for its settlement.

Indonesia rejects the idea on the grounds that the issue should be settled in a dialogue between the country involved and the IAEA, Ambassador Han said.

The conflict between North Korea and IAEA, particularly with the United States, began when North Korea rejected earlier the nuclear international body's inspection team to observe its nuclear facilities.

North Korea withdrew its Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) membership on March 1993 but later deferred the withdrawal after conducting talks with the United States.

Han threatened that his country will withdrew its NPT membership if the United States continues to break the agreement signed by both sides in New York last February 25, 1994.

According to Han, under the agreement, the United States, announced the suspension of the "Team Spirit '94"—a joint military exercises between the U.S. and South Korea—and that it would set a date of the opening of third round of North Korea-U.S. talks.

"However, the United States said it would keep the promise only after the inspection of IAEA had been made satisfactory and special envoys are exchanged between the North and the South," he added.

The ambassador also disclosed that the meeting agreed on four steps of simultaneous action for a package solution to the nuclear issue, including the suspension of the "Team Spirit '94", resumption of the working level meetings, acceptance of the IAEA inspection and holding of the third round of U.S.-North Korea talk.

The ambassador said that North Korea has accepted the IAEA's inspectors. It has held several rounds of working level meetings and made every possible efforts for an early exchange of special envoys.

"But the U.S. side has fulfilled none of its obligations," he said, adding that, "if the U.S. continues to break the agreement we will withdraw our NPT membership."

Suharto Refuses Aid With Strings Attached

BK2303133294 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0915 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Probolinggo, Mar 23 (ANTARA)—President Suharto reiterated Wednesday that Indonesia will be firm in refusing foreign aid that has strings unfavorable to Indonesian interests tied to it.

"Should no foreign aid be available because of this policy, we will be ready to carry on our national development by our own resources," he said in a speech at the commissioning of the Priton steam driven power plant near this East Java town.

The head of state said foreign assistance will remain no more than a supplement to the country's national resources and its future its volume will steadily decrease as these resources continue to increase.

On the other hand, the president conceded that though the nation is resolved to carry on its development on its own strength, "we do realize that foreign assistance could be used to advantage to further our advancement."

A few years back, Indonesia decided to no longer accept financial aid from the Netherlands because the donor government kept tying its assistance to political strings.

The Paiton plant commissioned by the president was constructed with domestic funding supplemented by foreign financial assistance amounting totally to RP (rupiah) 2.3 trillion.

Two generator units of the plant, completed in the first development phase and inaugurated Wednesday, each has a capacity of 400 MW (megawatts), with fuel need of two billion tons of coal a year.

Touching on the coal use, President Suharto said the 36 billion-ton coal deposit must be benefited to diversify energy sources especially because natural oil as the main energy source, is not renewable.

"Coal will become the main energy source that we can rely on in the future," He said at the ceremony which was attended also by the first lady, Mrs. Tien Suharto, the World Bank president, Lewis Preston, and Minister/State Secretary Murdiono.

Acknowledging that it will need hard work, the head of state called for a well planned coal use.

He also urged for the participation of private sector in developing steam power plants (PLTU) in Paiton as well as other projects. The state electricity company (PLN) plans in the third stage of the Paiton to build a number of more steam power plants with a capcity of 1200 x 2 MW respectively, because that of the second stage whose capacity is about 800 MW will be built by PLN itself.

By giving a chance to the private sector to develop electricity, telecommunications and social means

projects, the president said, the government can use its fund for the development of Indonesia's eastern and western regions.

Editorial Analyzes Deficit in 1993/94 Budget

BK2403105094 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 10 Mar 94 p 6

[Editorial: "A Deficit in the 1993/94 Budget"]

[Text] The state budget experienced a deficit for the first time in the history of the New Order. The 1993/94 budget indicated a huge deficit of 1.8 trillion rupiah. The huge budget deficit will raise questions from numerous sectors, such as, will such a deficit reoccur during the 1994/95 fiscal year?

In a statement during a plenary session of the House of Representatives (DPR) on Monday, 7 March, Finance Minister Mar'ie Muhammad stated that more funds will be allocated and changes will be made to the 1993/94 budget to keep to a balanced budget of 62.65 trillion rupiah. It is clear that such changes are needed so income estimates will be at 62.65 trillion rupiah while estimates for expenditures will stand at 64.64 trillion rupiah.

According to the finance minister, the government will utilize a balance of payments and proposed reserves for development totalling to 1.8 trillion rupiah from previous fiscal years in the effort to realize several development programs during the 1993/94 fiscal year and as a measure to cover the deficit.

Our economic planners need to be more watchful if we take into account the amount derived from 1993/94 domestic income, which stands at only 52.279 trillion rupiah or 0.9 percent lower than estimated. This indicates that lower income derived from the petroleum sector has not been balanced yet by increased nonoil exports.

Income from the petroleum sector was expected to bring in only about 12.507 trillion rupiah or a decline of 17.3 percent from the estimated target. The average price of Indonesian oil will only stand at U.S.$16.50 per barrel or U.S.$1.50 per barrel lower than the projected U.S.$18 per barrel for the 1994/95 fiscal budget.

Therefore, the major cause for the 1993/94 fiscal year deficit is due to the lower income derived from the petroleum sector. Unquestionably, the lower income derived from the petroleum sector was solely due to declining oil prices in the international market.

Global oil prices continue to slide since last year and in February 1994, the price of oil remained static at U.S.$14 per barrel. This worrisome condition of our national income from the petroleum sector should be expeditiously anticipated.

Lately, the price of petroleum in the international market further intensifies our concern because current oil prices have descended to slightly more than U.S.$13 per barrel. The price of Brent Blend [preceding term in English]—a global demand—stood merely at U.S.$13.05 per barrel on Monday, 7 March.

The perpetual decline in oil prices will certainly influence our national income for the 1994/95 fiscal year because we projected oil prices to stand at U.S.$16 per barrel. National income will be lowered by a net 600 billion rupiah if the price of oil were to decline by a mere U.S. dollar per barrel.

In the effort to avoid another budget deficit as a result of the perpetual decline in oil prices, the government has made a provision of 3.5 trillion rupiah to be taken out from the proposed development reserves. Several sectors will surely ask if it was indisputable that another budget deficit can be avoided through the utilization of proposed development reserves.

The country's economic planners have frequently stated that the proposed reserves for development will not be used as long as it can be avoided. This means that the proposed reserves for development can only be used when there is a problem with national income, which in turn, causes a national economic crisis.

The utilization of proposed development reserves indicates an "instability" in the national economic situation. As such, an alternative source has to be found. Several other alternatives exist and the one with the most potential is to effortlessly intensify nonoil export activities.

As a result of the increasing stiff and endless competition to gain access to the international market, we must first totally eliminate all high-cost economic activities in the country in our effort further increase and intensify our nonoil exports. Indonesian products will never be competitive if such a measure is not taken.

Laos

Deputy Prime Minister Meets Thai Journalists

BK2303102494 Vientiane KPL in English 0739 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Vientiane, March 23 (KPL)—Mr. Khamphoui Keobounphin, deputy prime minister, president of the Committee for Planning and Cooperation, yesterday, received the visiting delegation of the Association of Journalists of Thailand led by its president, Mr. Pramot Fai-upain.

The Lao deputy prime minister, as he welcomed the Thai journalists, said that he was pleased to see that journalists of the two neighbours had established links for mutual benefits which would enable the sides to exchange professional experiences. Better understanding among journalists could also be instrumental for the consolidation of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

The discussion between Mr. Khamphoui Keobounphin and his Thai guests passed in an atmosphere of friendship. Mr. Bouaban Volakhoun, acting president of the

Journalists' Association of Laos, also deputy minister of information and culture, accompanied the Thai journalists to see the deputy prime minister.

During the visit from March 21-27, apart from Vientiane, the Thai journalists are scheduled to visit northern Luang Prabang Province. The Journalists' Association of Thailand presented the Journalists' Association of Laos 50,000 baht [Thai currency].

Greetings From Communist Party of Vietnam

BK2403070394 Vientiane Vitthayon Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] On the 39th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] on 22 March, on behalf of the Communist Party and people of Vietnam, we would like to extend our fraternal and intimate goodwill and best wishes to you, comrades, and multiethnic people.

Under the clear-sighted and talented leadership of the LPRP, for the past 39 years, the multiethnic Lao people have held aloft the spirit of patriotism, overcome numerous difficulties and trials, and scored successive and important achievements in national liberation, national defense, and national construction and comprehensive restructuring. Laos' economic foundations have made impressive advancement, while the living conditions of the multiethnic people have improved. The political stability of the country has been steadily maintained and the national defense and public security maintenance work has been further consolidated. As a result, the influence of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has been further elevated in this region and the world over. These successes have made noble contributions to the common struggle for peace, independence, democracy, and social progress of the world's people. The Communist Party and people of Vietnam would like to extend our wholehearted congratulations to the Lao people for having won such glorious victories. For this exuberant celebration, we hope that the Lao people will further expand their glorious revolutionary traditions by uniting with one another to carry out the comprehensive restructuring in accordance with the resolution adopted at the Fifth LPRP Congress, thereby fulfilling the task of building Laos with peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity. The Communist Party and people of Vietnam are very proud and grateful to the LPRP and multiethnic people for you, our intimate comrades, have always stood side by side and wholeheartedly supported the Vietnamese revolution.

May the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between our two parties and peoples be continuously and more effectively developed to conform to the realities and capabilities of each country in the interests of peace and development of our two countries and other countries in the region and the world.

Philippines

Senators Comment on Korean Peninsula Issue

BK2403072294 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] The Philippines will be forced to send troops to North Korea if war breaks out there. This was revealed by Senator Blas Ople, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He emphasized that the country, being a member of the United Nations, should lead in sending troops to North Korea. Ople also asked the government to take appropriate action to safeguard the estimated 40,000 Filipinos in Korea [as heard].

Meanwhile, Senator Rodolfo Biazon, former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief, hopes the current situation in Korea will not result in war.

Thailand

Foreign Minister Prasong To Visit Burma

BK2303044294 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Mar 94 p 11

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri has been invited to Burma in his capacity as chairman of ASEAN's standing committee and efforts are under way for him to visit in mid-April, senior officials said yesterday.

The invitation came from Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, and was delivered to Squadron Leader Prasong after he returned from Hanoi on Saturday, the officials added.

Burma's Ambassador to Thailand U Phone Myint delivered the invitation the officials noted.

Sqn Ldr Prasong spoke of the invitation from Rangoon during talks in Canberra yesterday with Australian shadow foreign minister Andrew Peacock.

As part of a four-day visit to Australia, Sqn Ldr Prasong also met Defence Minister Robert Ray and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Paul Keating yesterday.

According to a Thai Foreign Ministry report, Mr Peacock expressed the view that Sqn Ldr Prasong should accept the invitation from Rangoon.

Officials in Bangkok said details of the trip would be worked out after Sqn Ldr Prasong returns this weekend from visits to Australia and New Zealand.

Senior officials of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) two weeks ago agreed to invite Burma, in the capacity of a non-participating "guest", to attend the annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Bangkok in July.

The ASEAN ministers made clear that Burma's foreign minister would be a "guest" of host country Thailand, not of the grouping as a whole.

During talks in Canberra yesterday Foreign Minister Prasong called the ASEAN decision the start of an effort to bring Burma out of isolation, the Thai Foreign Ministry report said.

The minister made the point when the Australian side raised questions about "constructive engagement" with Rangoon, the report added.

"On the question of Burma, Australia and Thailand do not differ on principles of democratic government and problems of human rights," the report noted. "However, methods may differ because Thailand has a common border with Burma," the report said.

On Cambodia, Foreign Minister Prasong reiterated that Thailand recognises the elected government and supports a political solution to the current strife in the country, the report noted.

"The Thai side believes political means should be applied to solve problems in Cambodia because there will be protracted fighting if the government side seizes territory and the Khmer Rouge employ guerrilla tactics to resist," the report added.

Paper Condemns Australia's Immigration Policy

BK2303124194 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 23 Mar 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Australia Is Overdoing It"]

[Text] Australia has said publicly on many occasions that its survival and future interests depend on Asia, particularly Southeast Asia, whose 350 million population possesses considerable buying power. With this in mind, Australia has strengthened economic relations with the region, particularly with ASEAN, to firm up its foundation for future interests. However, if Australia regards all Thais who step on its soil as criminals, it is creating danger for itself.

Australian immigration officials can hardly deny that they are treating every Thai man and woman arriving at Australian air and sea ports in a discriminatory manner. Their luggage is thoroughly inspected and women are given body searches as if they are wanted criminals. All of this is simply because they carry Thai passports. This is untolerable.

If things worsen to the point that Thai people express their dissatisfaction with Australia at the national level, Thai-Australian relations will be harmed more than by any expression by the Thai Government. Thai people have wondered for some time what criteria Australian officials use to reach the assumption that all Thais are heroin traffickers and Thai women are prostitutes. Holders of other passports do not seem to be subjected to this assumption.

We want to warn Australia that things will worsen if it does not rectify this matter. The discrimination against Thais is unacceptable. It is a fact that Thais hardly create any problems for Australia, compared with refugees coming to that country. Thais certainly create less problems than the large number of Hong Kong nationals, who merely go there to establish permanent residency but never really live there. In addition, the Thai Government has never treated Australia in an aggressive manner as it has some countries. Does Australia want to be treated that way by the Thai people?

If ASEAN should get tough, Australian aircraft and commercial ships will face great difficulties and Australian interests in Southeast Asia will shrink. Australia must not forget how countries having ambassadorial-level relations should treat each other. The treatment of Thais as if they are criminal suspects should be regarded as an insult to Thai people.

We ask Australia to remedy the way it treats Thai people. We want to know how Australia will feel if all holders of Australian passports are given completely thorough luggage checks and Australian women are given body searches as they arrive at Thai airports, sea ports, or border train stations.

Official on Setting Up Israeli Missions

BK2403031894 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 94 p A3

[Text] THAILAND should consider establishing an embassy in Israel, as the situation in the Middle East has improved, a senior Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

"It is time for Thailand to have an embassy there as the peace process is underway. It would be a lot easier to think about it now than in two or three years," the official said.

He said Israel had developed technologies in various fields including medicine and agriculture, which Thailand could make use of.

Thailand's embassy in Rome presently oversees Israel, while Israel has had an embassy in Bangkok since 1957.

The official also said the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) official presence in Thailand would initially be in the form of a representative's office.

"The PLO at this time cannot have an embassy as it does not have statehood yet," the official said. A final decision on the matter rests with the minister.

In this way Thailand will "show its political support for the Middle East peace process now underway," he said.

The establishment of the PLO's representative office was decided on three years ago but was put on hold because of the Gulf War.

In addition to an embassy in Israel's Tel Aviv, the Foreign Ministry is also considering setting up consulates in China's Shanghai, Cambodia's Battambang, and Laos' Savannakhet.

Thailand last year approved the establishment of a Laotian consulate in the Northeast. While Laos is considering setting it up in Udon Thani, Khon Kaen or Nong Khai, the Thai Foreign Ministry has expressed its preference for Nong Khai.

Paper Tells Chuan To 'Ship Out'

BK2403041894 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 94 p A6

[Editorial: "Chuan Ditches the Ones Who Shed Blood for Democracy"]

[Text] Last year, the administration of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai promised to create a park and build a monument to commemorate the May 1992 bloody political events and a similar uprising in August 1973 when scores of people disappeared or were killed.

Till today, however, this promise still remains to be fulfilled.

On Tuesday, the May 1992 Heroes' Relatives Committee appealed to the government to speed up the building of the monument to remember the deaths of those who took part in the bloody prodemocracy rallies on Ratchadamnoen Avenue and to wrap up investigations into the disappearance of some 41 people during the May crisis.

The anxiety of the families and friends of those who went missing in May 1992 is understandable. Many of the pro-democracy demonstrators who disappeared were breadwinners for their families and their next-of-kin have not been given any financial assistance whatsoever by the government. Though the Interior Ministry announced that it had already provided a total of Bt26 million to 1,359 families of victims of the bloodshed and would continue to provide assistance until May 1995, it should be borne in mind that this aid does not extend to the next-of-kin of the missing.

The problem of those missing after the May massacre has to be accepted as a national trauma, even though some quarters in Thai society might suggest that they are best forgotten.

The May 1992 Heroes' Relatives Committee accused the Chuan government of having failed to do enough to ensure justice for the relatives and they felt let down by the administration.

"The government has been negligent on issues concerning the May victims. This shows the coalition is insincere in getting to the bottom of the problem and doesn't support democracy in a meaningful way," said the committee's leader Adun Khoowboriphun who lost his only son in May 1991, when he was cut down by a hail of bullets on Ratchadamnoen Avenue.

The question remains: What is the underlying fear that prevents the Chuan government from letting the public know the findings of a commission set up by the Anan II administration to look into the May 1991 events?

The point to be made is that if the public knew the truth about what really happened, some of the wilder rumours about how the bodies of the missing were disposed would be dispelled. Until this is accepted, there will be further argument between opposing sides and the conflict will never be resolved.

Nearly two years later, we can't help but ask: Was it worth going out onto the streets, facing police batons and Army bullets on Ratchadamnoen Avenue, risking our lives and demanding democracy—only to get a lame-duck government that disregards everyone's interests but its own?

Democracy in Thailand survives on promises for a better future and a fear of a return to the brutal past. But now it seems the promises made by Chuan cannot be fulfilled.

A major message of May 1992 is that an eligible candidate for the prime ministership must be an elected MP. The post of the country's chief executive can no longer be monopolized by army generals and political appointees. Also, politicians must be more cautious about their conduct because they can come under intense scrutiny as a result of heightened public expectations.

But many politicians seem to have forgotten the profound changes that have taken place around them and remain pre-occupied with their own narrow self-interests. Political bickering has become their way of life, to the extent that they have lost sight of their official duty—to make decisions on how to deal effectively with problems facing the country.

Politics in Thailand has become a game of self-aggrandizement played by society's well-to-do. Little thought is given to the people, let alone the pro-democracy protesters who helped place MPs in their positions of authority and responsibility. The proposed constitutional amendments are a good example of how little these politicians care for the people. While the amendments are of utmost importance to guarantee the rights of the people, MPs are arguing over the number of points to be passed at the extraordinary session of Parliament next week.

Instead of displaying his leadership to rein in government and opposition MPs over this issue, and to help solve many other problems plaguing the country, Chuan has been behaving like Nero fiddling away while Rome burns.

Day by day, the prime minister seems to be losing support. The May relatives have now joined the academics and pro-democracy movement in not wanting to have anything to do with him. The message is clear: Whatever government purports to represent us must also champion our rights. Chuan Likphai has failed the very people whose loved ones gave their lives for his government.

The writing on the wall is clear. Since Chuan has, after two years, failed to shape up, he must now ship out.

Country Should Not Be 'Venue for Revenge'

BK2403090894 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 24 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Thailand Is Not a Battlefield"]

[Text] Even though the truck bomb belonging to international terrorists that was discovered recently did not cause a devastating explosion, we should not let the incident pass as if nothing happened. At the least, the terrorists committed a crime by killing a Thai and putting his body in a water tank that contained explosives. Imagine how serious the damage would have been if the highly destructive bomb had really exploded. The damage would not only have affected the target of the terrorists' revenge, but also Thai people who were not the target of their vengeance at all.

Therefore, we must not let this savage act pass like a trivial issue. At least their colleagues in the movement will realize that committing terrorist acts, killing our people, and causing damage in our country are unacceptable to us. They will never gain the Thai people's sympathy or support for their fight. Therefore, this terrorist act in our country has ruined any chance for friendship and understanding from the Thai people. They must keep this fact in mind.

Whatever the target of the terrorist act was—whether it involved the Palestinian-Israeli problem, the Arab-Israeli conflict, or any religious or political dispute—if they cannot love each other the way human beings should help and sympathize with one another, and if they remain vengeful rather than reaching an understanding with each other, let them carry out their revenge somewhere else. They must not use Thai territory as a battlefield for their vengeance and destruction.

Thailand is friendly with all countries. Our country is open to people of all nations in compliance with our policy of promoting tourism, which is a way to bring money into the country and encourage the country's economic growth. We do not want this open door policy to make our country a battlefield for people from one country to take out revenge and kill people from other countries, or for a follower of one ideology to harm someone who holds different beliefs. We do not want our country to be a venue for revenge.

We hope they understand the Thai people's desires. They must know that committing crimes in other countries will cause them to be hated. At the same time, it will also isolate them from the world community. An isolated struggle, without sympathy from the world community, will never bring victory—only defeat. Those who commit terrorist acts in other countries will be denied entry. Thailand is ready to deny entry and not welcome these kinds of people.

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Comments on MIA Search Effort

BK2403092694 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Ann Griffiths, executive director of the U.S. National League of POW/MIA Families [NLPMF] visited Vietnam from 22-24 March. During her visit, she met with Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai and held discussion on issues related to the MIA with representatives of the Ministries of Defense and Interior, the Vietnam MIA Office, and the U.S. MIA Office in Hanoi.

On 23 March, Mrs. Griffiths paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at the Government Office. During the meeting, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said: The Vietnamese Government has always regarded the search for Americans missing in action as a humanitarian issue which is in line with the Vietnamese people's tradition. The Vietnamese Government, past and present, has done its best in searching for MIAs. The Vietnamese Goverament will continue its best efforts to carry out this task in the days ahead. The government also urges people in localities throughout the country to report to the authorities all information which are of interest to families of the American MIA.

The prime minister also said he hoped to receive new, positive, and effective cooperation from the NLPMF in searching for American and Vietnamese soldiers missing in action. He stressed that this is a compensation for the losses experienced by both sides in the past.

28th Joint MIA Search Concludes

BK2403154194 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24—The 28th joint search for the American servicemen missing in action (MIA) during the war was conducted from Fb. 26 to March 22 in various provinces and cities in Vietnam. The US-Vietnamese joint teams have got a lot of information about MIAs and a considerable number of sets of US servicemens remains. The US side thanked and highly valued Vietnam's effective cooperation in this humanitarian issues.

Do Muoi Interviewed Prior to Malaysia Visit

BK2303155594 Hanoi VNA in English 1407 GMT 23 Mar 94

["Interview with VCP General Secretary Do Muoi to BERNAMA correspondent"—VNA headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] [Correspondent] Your Excellency, obviously your impending visit to Malaysia will be more than just a state visit. In your assessment in what aspect Vietnam's relations with Malaysia can be further improved: Are you satisfied with the current state of relations between the two countries? What are the obstacles to enhancing the relationship, if any? In conjunction with your visit can we expect Vietnam and

Malaysia to sign new agreements for new areas of mutual cooperation to enhance the already excellent ties between the two countries?

[Do Muoi] In the past time, the relations of friendship and multifaceted cooperation between our two countries have seen fine developments. I'm satisfied with the harmonious developments in economic as well as political relations between our two countries. The two countries have exchanged many high-level delegations and signed many cooperative agreements, creating favourable political and legal basis for the development and expansion of cooperation on various fields in accordance with the potential of each country.

At the invitation of H.E. [His Excellency] Dr Mohamad Mahathir, prime minister of Malaysia, I'll conduct an official and friendship visit to Malaysia. The main objectives of this visit are to study Malaysian precious experiences in socio-economic development, to consolidate and further strengthen mutual understanding and trust, thereby contributing to the more effective development of the cooperative relationship between our two countries. This will create favourable conditions for concerned agencies of the two countries to strengthen and expand the existing cooperation in various fields, meeting the aspiration and interests of the peoples of our two countries. My visit this time doesn't aim at signing concrete cooperative agreement, which is under the competence of the two states.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, you were once quoted in a newspaper article that you encourage party and government officials to travel abroad and bring home experience to turn Vietnam into a strong country with rich people.

In this content, do you think Malaysia can also play a role towards helping Vietnam achieve that objective?

Can we also reverse the scenario. In what way can Vietnam help Malaysia share Vietnam's expertise in certain fields?

[Do Muoi] Vietnam attaches importance to the research and proper application of good experiences of the world under our own circumstances in order to build a Vietnam of 'rich people, strong nation, just and civilized society'. The achievements in the renewal process of Vietnam over the past years recognized by the world community have also proved that we have combined harmoniously the national self-reliance and the trend of cooperation for development in the present era.

Vietnam and Malaysia are geographically close and share many similarities in culture as well as traditional practice and customs. Malaysia has carried out excellently its strategy of socio-economic development and has drawn many precious experiences, which are highly appreciated internationally. At present, Malaysia ranks second among ASEAN investors in Vietnam. I am fully confident that, provided with these factors, Malaysia will play a deserving role in helping Vietnam build and develop the country in accordance with the good relationship between the two countries. On our part, we're ready to exchange views with Malaysia on questions of Malaysian concern in the spirit of friendship, trust and cooperation for the prosperity of our respective country and for the common wealth of Southeast Asia.

[Correspondent] Finally, Your Excellency, what is your vision of Southeast Asia and Asia as a whole in the near future?

[Do Muoi] Peace and development which are the age-old aspiration of nations are now becoming more and more imperative need of all countries in the world. Southeast Asia has never enjoyed favourable conditions as it does at present for the cooperation among countries in the spirit of understanding and friendship in an effort to achieve their common goal of maintaining peace stability and creating an international environment favourable for the development of their individual countries and the region as a whole. Prompted by this spirit, Vietnam has signed the Bali Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, become an ASEAN observer and is now participating in a number of ASEAN commissions and projects, preparing for its admission to ASEAN when conditions are ripe. Vietnam will also participate in the ASEAN Regional Forum on Security held in Bangkok. We support the Malaysian initiative for the East Asia Economic Forum.

A prosperous Southeast Asia is not only an indispensable condition for the construction of each country but also a very important factor for peace, stability in Asia-Pacific as a whole, a centre which is drawing much attention from the world community for its dynamics and great prospects in the 21st century.

For Vietnam, strengthening its cooperation with other countries in Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific is of special importance. Our foreign policy enjoys warm sympathy and response from Malaysia and other countries. We are striving for a consistent objective, that is to maintain durable peace for national development cooperation, making considerable contribution to prosperity of the region and of the world as a whole.

NHAN DAN Welcomes Do Muoi's Visit To Malaysia

BK2403092294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Mar 94

[NHAN DAN 24 March editorial: "Great Potential in Vietnam-Malaysia Relations"]

[Text] Ties between Vietnam and Malaysia and other nations in the region have developed positively in the past. Vietnam has joined the Bali Treaty, become observer to ASEAN, and participated in various ASEAN activities.

Following General Secretary Do Muoi's official visit to Singapore and Thailand in October 1993, his official visit to Malaysia this time will, once again, assert Vietnam's open-door foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, and diversified diplomatic activities, which has

been welcomed by the region and the world. It will also help strengthen our foreign policy towards Southeast Asia and ASEAN member countries, thereby contributing to enhancing stability, security, and development in the region.

We are pleased to see the great achievements scored by the Malaysian people in their efforts to build a prosperous and happy country. In implementing the new economic policy in the past two decades or more, the Malaysian people through their efforts, creativity, and hard work, have brought their country from a renowned rubber and tin producing nation to an industrial-manufacturing nation with modern electronic facilities. Its engineering production sector has contributed greatly to the GNP. In the first three years of the 90's, this sector's output accounted for 29 percent of the GNP, compared to 23 percent in the 70's. In 1993, Malaysia attained an economic growth of eight percent, thus balancing the national budget for the first time. It also achieved a balance of payments surplus of $200 million in 1993 compared to a $2.2-billion deficit in 1992. Its per capita income now is $2,965 [figure as heard] and it is estimated that Malaysia's GNP will increase to 8.5-9 percent in 1994. Therefore, the goal of turning Malaysia into a developed and industrialized country by the year 2020 is likely to materialize.

Vietnam and Malaysia are two close neighbors. We have similarities in our history and culture. The two countries have, for a long time established relations of friendship, mutual trust, and understanding. In recent years, the multifaceted cooperation between the two countries have developed rapidly and favorably. In 1993, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet paid an official friendship visit to Malaysia, while Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed returned the visit with a trip to Vietnam, thus helping to strengthen cooperation. The two sides are effectively implementing bilateral agreements on promoting and ensuring investments, and on shipping, economic, scientific-technological, postal, and environmental protection cooperation as well as on payments between the state banks of the two nations.

The Malaysian Government has also decided to provide Vietnam with $700,000 worth of aid to help us build and develop our infrastructure. It has agreed to provide training to Vietnamese public health and economic workers. Two-way trade value increased from $20 million in 1985 to $100 million in 1990, while a substantial increase was attained in 1993.

To date, Malaysia has 24 investment projects in Vietnam with a total capital of more than $200 million. It is the second highest investor among ASEAN countries and 10th among countries investing in Vietnam. Bilateral cooperation in culture, the arts, and tourism has also been promoted.

Worthy of note is that the Malaysian leaders and people have expressed their willingness to share with Vietnam their experiences in national construction and development. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed has said: We are ready to enhance friendship and cooperation with Vietnam because we are confident that Vietnam is honestly wishing to live in peace and cooperation with neighboring countries in the Southeast Asian community.

General Secretary Do Muoi has recently asserted that the Vietnamese party, state, and people's wishes to consistently strengthen the relations of friendship, solidarity, and multifaceted cooperation with Malaysia.

We wish General Secretary Do Muoi's official friendship visit to Malaysia, a beautiful and congenial country, a splendid success, thereby opening up the great potential in Vietnam-Malaysia ties, while contributing to strengthening peace, friendship, cooperation, and prosperity for Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific.

Do Muoi Arrives in Kuala Lumpur 24 Mar

BK2403163194 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24—General Secretary Do Muoi and his entourage arrived in Kuala Lumpur, this morning beginning his official friendship visit to Malaysia as guest of Prime Minister Mohamed. Mr Do Muoi was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and accompanied Minister Daud Taha.

After the official welcomed ceremony held in the Parliamentary Square, General Secretary Do Muoi and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed reviewed the honour guards of Malaysian armed forces. Mr. Mahathir Mohamed introduced Mr Do Muoi the Malaysian Government's officials. Among those present at the event on the Malaysian side were Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Cabinet Minister Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha, and Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak. Vietnamese Ambassador to Malaysia Ngo Tat To and members of diplomatic corps attended the ceremony.

Military Delegation Visits Russia, Ukraine

BK2403075794 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1215 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Accepting the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's invitation, our high ranking military delegation led by Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, chief of the Vietnam People's Army General Staff, recently visited the Russian Federation. While there, the delegation laid wreaths at the President Ho Chi Minh Monument and the Unknown Soldiers Monument; held talks with Gen. Kolesnikov, Chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff; and visited the St. Petersburg Military Region and some Russian army units. Our high-ranking military delegation was also warmly received by Yarov, Russian deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers during its stay in the Russian Federation.

After sucessfully concluding the Russian Federation visit, the delegation visited the Republic of Ukraine at the invitation of its Defense Ministry. Our delegation held talks with the Ukrainian high-ranking military delegation led by Gen. (Lupata), first deputy minister of defense and chief of the Ukraine Republic Armed Forces General Staff.

Our people and Army have always enjoyed unity and friendship with the peoples and armies of Russia and the Ukraine. These friendship visits by our military delegation led by Sen. Lieut. Gen. Dao Dinh Luyen, chief of the Vietnam People's Army General Staff have been successfully concluded, thus strengthening the friendship and mutual assistance between the Vietnamese Army and people with their Russian and Ukrainian counterparts.

IAEA Official Begins Five-Day Working Visit

BK2403161694 Hanoi VNA in English 1427 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24—Dr. Sueo Machi, deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) concluded today his five-day working visit to Vietnam.

While here Dr. Machi and Prof. Nguyen Dinm Tu, director of the National Institute of Nuclear Energy (NINE) exchanged views on activities of IAEA and NINE and the application of nuclear technology in agriculture, industry, health care and environmental protection.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, received Dr Machi on March 20. During the reception Dr Machi highlighted the close cooperation of the Vietnamese Government in implementing projects funded by IAEA. He also expressed his hope that in the future, nuclear technology will be widely applied in various economic branches in Vietnam, especially in agriculture.

For his part, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam thanked IAEA for its aid to Vietnam through technological assistance projects and expressed Vietnam's concern about the promotion of cooperation between IAEA and Vietnam in the use of nuclear energy for peace purpose.

Dr Machi visited sub-institutes of the National Institute of Nuclear Energy in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Lat.

Commentary on Cuban Foreign Minister's Visit

BK2403093994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnam has done its best to further consolidate and develop solidarity and multifaceted cooperation with Cuba. This was stated by party Secretary General Do Muoi at the reception given in honor of visiting Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez in Hanoi. The Cuban foreign minister was received by Vietnamese leaders, who all reaffirmed the Vietnam's unchanged support for Cuban people and government in their efforts to overcome present difficulties and their successful carrying out of the national construction and defense.

Vietnam and Cuba have an age-old traditional relationship. Vietnamese people appreciate the Cuban party, government, and people for their long solidarity, strong support, and general assistance to the Vietnamese people's revolution. The visit to Cuba by the Vietnamese party and government delegation led by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet in July last year was a new step in bilateral relations between Vietnam and Cuba.

Speaking with the newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, or Army paper, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said: The Vietnamese people will never forget the support and assistance reserved for Vietnam by the Cuban people during the years of the anti-U.S war for national salvation. With the spirit for Vietnam, Cuba was prepared to donate even their own blood. Vietnamese people deem it their obligation and responsibility to share with Cuban people all wealth and woes, especially in the current difficult time for Cuba.

During the Cuba visit last year, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet reached an agreement where Vietnam is providing Cuba with 10 million tons [figure as heard] of rice annually. Vietnam also offers to share experiences with Cuban people on its renovation process. At present, Vietnam and Cuba have strengthened comprehensive cooperation, especially in education, health, transport and communication, and agriculture.

The visit to Vietnam by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Gonzalez will help further consolidate the fraternity and mutual cooperation between Vietnam and Cuba. Before leaving Hanoi on 23 March, the Cuban foreign minister told a press conference:

[Begin Robaina recording in Spanish fading into English translation] My visit to Vietnam this time is very special and comes with satisfactory results. This time I could see with my own eyes the achievements of the Vietnamese people in their doi moi—renovation. These are very precious experiences for the Cuban people. I believe that the ties between Vietnam and Cuba will be further consolidated and developed in the future. [end recording]

Vo Van Kiet Meets Ha Giang Officials

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[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh held a meeting yesterday morning with the secretary of the party committee and chairman of the people's committee of Ha Giang Province, together with representatives of government ministries and sectors at the central level. The meeting reviewed results of the one-year pilot project in which

Ha Giang was picked by the government as a socioeconomic development model for the mountain region.

After listening to the reports of Ha Giang leaders on the implementation of socioeconomic programs in the pas year, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, and representatives of government ministries and sectors discussed socioeconomic programs for Ha Giang in 1994. They suggested concrete measures for these programs stressing the need to deploy local resources in the effective use of central government-subsidized capital. On a per capita basis, this province receives among the highest subsidy for provinces.

The delegates also discussed the responsibility of government ministries and sectors in helping the locality achieve its socioeconomic targets in accordance with government directives. Prime Minister stressed that last year's achievements attested to the great efforts of the party organization and the multi-ethnic people to overcome all the difficulties a newly formed province faces in using government assistance effectively, and in coordinating with central ministries and sectors.

From the Ha Giang experiment, other mountain provinces can learn leadership and management at every level, the division of responsibilities, and coordination between localities and ministries and sectors at the central level.

On orientations for future economic activities, the prime minister suggested that Ha Giang Province move from a self-sufficient and self-reliant economy, and develop manufacturing in 1994 as a solid base for further progress. The province should establish areas that specialize in high-value and high-yield plants, trees, or livestock. It should also set a dateline to complete the settled-home and settled-farming campaign for some 500 households, which are still living and practising nomadic lives and farming, and for over 2,300 households who have now settled down, but are still practicing nomadic farming. Slash-and-burn farming should be prevented, reforestation on empty land and bare hills and mountains should be sped up, and about 2,000 hectares of poor forest need to be replanted. Small and medium-scale industries should be developed, especially manufacturing and processing. The prime minister also reminded the province to develop small hydroelectricity projects to exploit local energy sources for industry and daily use.

On social and cultural aspects, the prime minister has urged Ha Giang to quickly develop the people-initiated education model, especially in the building of schools. This is so that in the next two or three years, all local schools would be properly built structures with tile-roofing and would be able to take in 60 percent of the children of school-going age who are not in school at present. In each particular ethnic group, there should be an appropriate model to promote hygienic living and eating habits, and family planning. Party cadres and members and youth federation members should be models. These criteria should be used in cadre and party member assessment. The province should also also strive to solve the water shortage affecting nearly 100,000 people, especially for those living in mountainous areas.

Cultural activities should be brought to the grassroots level. The indigenous cultural characteristics should be maintained, while obsolete and superstitious practices that cause losses and wastage should be done away with.

On direction and management, the prime minister has requested the relevant ministries and sectors at central level to work out separate programs for Ha Giang Province in their respective areas. They should form a specialized team for each specific area and learn from their experiences.

Various agencies in Ha Giang should work closely with cadres at district and village levels. Each cadre of the party committee should be assigned to be responsible for one hamlet or tribal village. The most capable cadres should be assigned to be responsible for the most difficult tasks. There should training be and advanced programs for ethnic cadres selected from mass movements, especially in remote and inaccessible areas.

Australia

Evans, Thailand's Prasong Discuss ASEAN Treaty

BK2403042094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 94 p A4

[Text] AUSTRALIA has expressed interest in acceding to the ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Co-operation (TAC) in talks with Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri, according to a Foreign Ministry statement yesterday.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans raised the issue during his meeting with Prasong, who is on three-day official visit to Australia.

Prasong had said he would raise the matter the other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Malaysia—the statement said. It gave no further details.

Australia is already a dialogue partner of ASEAN. Acceding to the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia (TAC) would be a necessary step towards membership of the regional grouping. However, ASEAN leaders cannot agree on the need to expand the 1976-Bali treaty to include countries outside Southeast Asia.

The treaty calls for the peaceful settlement of regional conflict and provides for setting up a high council to settle disagreements. Some ASEAN states fear the council could be dominated by non- Southeast Asian regional players if they are allowed to accede to the treaty.

Priority is clearly being given to links with the other Southeast Asian nations: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma.

Laos and Vietnam have observer status and have already acceded to the treaty. The United Nations in 1992 adopted resolutions endorsing the TAC's guidelines and principles as a code of conduct for relations between countries in the region and as a mechanism to settle disputes.

The statement said Evans also proposed that the first meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum [ARF] discuss the setting up of two or three working groups.

It said Evans and Prasong agreed that the first ARF meeting should promote friendliness and confidence-building among the 18 attending foreign ministers as a foundation for co-operation in ensuring peace and stability.

Fiji

Government Seeks Diplomatic Ties With India

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[Text] Fiji says it could rejoin the Commonwealth as soon as early as next year. The South Pacific correspondent, Erina Reddan, reports that Fiji's newly elected government wants to rejoin the Commonwealth and reestablish diplomatic links with India.

[Begin Reddan recording] Fiji left the Commonwealth in the wake of two military coups in 1987 which overthrew an Indo-Fijian dominated government. It broke off diplomatic links with India in 1989 after accusing an embassy staffer of interfering in local politics. Now elected for a second term as prime minister, one-time coup leader Sitiveni Rabuka says he wants a new era of racial harmony between Fijians and Indo-Fijians. The racist constitution which guarantees Fijians' political dominance over Fiji Indians must be reviewed by 1997. The spokesperson, (Jauna Nakabua), says it could be well enough on the way by 1995 to satisfy the Commonwealth that it meets its protection of human rights principles. [end recording]